Price (in India only) Rs. 4.50

Ahmad Saud

Speaker's Encyclopedia of Humor

Stories, Quotes, Definitions, and Toasts for Every Situation

JACOB M. BRAUDE

JAICO PUBLISHING HOUSE

BOMBAY — NEW DELHI — CALCUTTA — MADRAS

SPEAKER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA
OF HUMOR
Complete and unabridged
FIRST JAICO IMPRESSION, 1963

Printed in India by
Rusi Khambatta
R.M.D.C. Press, 70-71
Worli Estate, Worli
Bombay-18

Published in India by
Jaman H. Shah
Jaico Publishing House
125, Mahatma Gandhi Road
Bombay-1

Contents

ANECDOTES 1

DEFINITIONS 329

TOASTS 377

GENERAL INDEX 410

ANECDOTES

Absent-mindedness

1. "Why did you put your hand in my pocket?"

PICKPOCKET: "Beg your pardon, sir. I am so absent-minded. I used to have a pair of pants just like those you are wearing."

2. The absent-minded professor was lecturing on anatomy.

"To show you more clearly what I mean, I have a parcel here containing a dissected frog. I want you to examine it very carefully."

The professor proceeded to unwrap it, when it was seen to contain two sandwiches and a hard-boiled egg. On recognizing it, the professor said: "I could have sworn I had eaten my lunch!"

3. "I am very absent-minded," said the professor. "I often find names and phone numbers written in my memo-book, but I can't remember what persons they represent. Recently I did a general checking up. The name and address of one man baffled me, so I wrote him, asked if he had ever heard of me, and if I was supposed to do something for him. He wrote back a cordial letter saying that I had already done it. He was my wife's *first* husband."

4. Two professors met on the sidewalk at midday, chatted awhile, then moved on.

After a few paces one of them stopped and called to the other:

"Say, John, which way was I going?"

The other smiled and pointed: "That way, Harold."

"Good," said Harold. "Then I've had my lunch."

This is one of the many absent-minded professor stories told about Dr. Harold C. Urey, Nobel Prize winner in chemistry and one of the outstanding scientists of this century.

Advertising

5. Samson had the right idea about advertising. He took two columns and brought down the house.

6. "Paw, what is an advertisement?"

"An advertisement is the picture of a pretty girl eating, wearing, holding or driving something that somebody wants to sell."

7. A millionaire soap manufacturer graciously consented to a press interview. "To what do you attribute your success?" he was asked.

Said the soap man earnestly, "To clean living, my friend, to clean living."

8. The owner of a spotless new fish store in San Francisco is going to have to change the placard in his window. "We sell anything that swims," he boasted proudly.

Then a customer walked in and demanded Esther Williams.

9. "Well," said the dying businessman, "you'd better put in a clause about my employes. To each man who has worked for me twenty years I give and bequeath $50,000."

"But," said the lawyer, "you haven't been in business twenty years."

"I know it, man, but it's good advertising."

10. A tourist in Alabama saw a large sign on a gasoline station that said, "Mississippi State Line Two Miles Ahead—Last Chance for 28-Cent Gas." He pulled in and had his tank filled.

"By the way, how much is gas in Mississippi?" he asked as the attendant was handing him his change.

The Alabaman replied, "Twenty-four cents."

Advice

11. A young composer once came to Mozart for advice on how to develop creatively. "Begin writing simple things first," Mozart told him; "songs, for example."

"But you composed symphonies when you were only a child," the man exclaimed.

"Ah," Mozart answered, "but I didn't go to anybody to find out how to become a composer!"

12. The following appeared in the personal columns of a London newspaper:

"My husband and I have four sons. Has anyone any suggestions as to how we may have a daughter?"

Letters from all over the world poured in. An American reminded the woman of the adage, if at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

A Canadian suggested checking with the Dionnes.

A South African doctor suggested a special diet.

An Indian suggested yogi.

But a Frenchman merely wrote: "Can I be of any service?"

13. "Father," asked the little fellow, "if it's polite to let women be first in everything, why did God make Adam before Eve?"

"Because, son," was the reply, "He didn't want any advice while he was making Adam."

Age

14. WOMAN LAWYER: "And your age is?. . ."

WOMAN WITNESS: "About the same as yours."

15. The young co-ed brought a friend home from college, an extremely attractive curvaceous honey-blonde.

Introducing her friend to her grandfather, the girl added: "And just think, Beverly, he's in his nineties."

"Early nineties, that is," the old gent added.

16. CONDUCTOR: "Children under 12 may ride half-fare. How old are you, little girl?"

GIRL: "Eleven."

CONDUCTOR: "And when will you be 12?"

GIRL: "As soon as I get off the train."

17. "How long did you work at your last job?" asked the prospective employer.

"Thirty years."

"How old are you?"

"Twenty-five."

"How could you work for thirty years when you're only twenty-five?"

"Overtime!"

Aging

18. There once lived a lad who could think of nothing but girls, girls and more girls. However, he outgrew it. Now all he thinks of is women!

19. Two moonshiners were discussing their business. "When I take my stuff into town," explained one, "ah always drives mighty slow—about 20 miles an hour."

"Skeered o' the law?"

"Nope, gotta age the stuff."

20. A woman is considered young until she's more concerned with how her shoes fit than her sweater.

21. Willoughby finally took his long-dreamed-of trip to France. When he returned, after a two months' visit, a friend asked him about it. "Wonderful," he sighed, "especially Paris. My only regret is that I couldn't have made the trip twenty years ago." "When Paris was really Paris, eh?" the friend asked. "No," he said a little sadly. "When Willoughby was really Willoughby."

Alcoholic liquor. See also *Drunkenness*

22. "He's on the wagon, signed the pledge, quit drinking completely and irrevocably."

"Alcoholics Anonymous?"

"No, alcoholic's arthritis. Can't bend elbow."

23. A very dignified judge was married to a very estimable creature, who, unfortunately, drank a bit too much.

At a party one evening he reproved her, "My dear, that's the fifth time you've gone up to the bar and asked for another highball. Doesn't it embarass you?"

"Why should it," she replied happily. "I just explain I'm getting them for you."

American

24. From the dark came the voice of the sentry, "Halt! Who's there?"

"An American," was the reply.

"Is that so? Well, advance and recite the second verse of the Star Spangled Banner."

"I don't know it."

"Proceed, American."

25. An American symphony orchestra touring the Far East was about to give a concert in a provincial town where the Communists had been conducting a strong anti-American propaganda campaign. Just before the program was to begin, the man assigned to help the American manager with the seating arrangements for the orchestra rushed up to him in great agitation and said, "Sir, there has been a great oversight, I'm afraid. Where are the cash registers to be set up?"

"We have no need for cash registers," smiled the manager. "This is a free concert."

"Yes, I know that," replied the man. "But we understood that the music Americans liked most was the ringing of cash registers. Why have you none in your orchestra?"

Ancestry

26. "Mommy, am I descended from a monkey?"

"I don't know. I've never met your father's people."

27. A descendant of the noble Harmodius was taunting Iphicrates with his low birth.

"The difference between us is this," Iphicrates replied, "my family begins with me, and yours ends with you."

28. PAUL BOURGET: "When an American has nothing else to do, he can always spend a few years trying to discover who his grandfather was."

MARK TWAIN: "Quite right, Monsieur Bourget. And when all other interests fail for a Frenchman, he can always try to find out who his father was."

Anonymity

29. "Man, I'm scared. Got a letter from a guy who says he'll shoot me if I don't stay away from his wife."

"Well, all you gotta do is stay away."

"Yeah, but he didn't sign his name."

30. A Texas oilman some years ago was participating in a charity drive. At a large banquet he rose to his feet. "Mah name," he said, "is James R. Robinson, and mah nickname is Jimmy. Ah have a ten thousand acre ranch in the Panhandle, and mah brand is JR. Ah run ten thousand barrels of oil a day, and ah own outright the Robinson Oil & Gas Company. Ah have a ten thousand dollar baby-blue Cadillac outside, and on it, in gold, are mah initials, JRR. Ah like this charity and ah want to give ten thousand dollars—ahnony-mously!"

Antique—Antiques

31. A collector of old furniture was bargaining for an old chair.

"It's Queen Anne, sir, I tell you," said the vendor.

"It may be, but how do you know it is?"

"Well, you see these letters, sir—'Q.A.' Well they stand for 'Queen Anne.'"

"Well," retorted the collector, "if that stands for 'Queen Anne,' I've got a door at home that dates back to William the Conqueror!"

32. The over-night millionaire wanted the best of everything. He went into a music shop and asked to see their most expensive violin. The assistant brought out a beautiful instrument, made in 1730.

"Wait a minute," said the millionaire, "you say this fiddle was made in 1730?"

"That's right."

"Then tell me; is the company that made it still in business?"

"Of course not!" exclaimed the assistant.

"Then it's no good," decided the rich man. "What would I do for spare parts?"

Appreciation

33. A man heaves his way to the theatre bar, gets sworn at, nails the mildewed man-hater behind it with an executive stare, extracts a sweet Martini from her by sheerest force of personality, worms backwards through the crowd without a drop spilled, hands it to his girl, pants like a dog, and waits for the word of commendation. "Where's the cherry?" she says.

34. In a lecture to a group of Korean officers, an American general took two or three minutes to tell his favorite joke. The interpreter then translated using only seven or eight words. Nevertheless everyone burst out into hearty laughter. After the lecture the general asked the interpreter how he had been able to tell such a long joke so quickly. "Well, sir," confessed the Korean, "I didn't think everyone would get the point so I just said: 'The General has just told a joke. Everyone will please laugh.' "

35. Little Tommy came home proudly clutching an expensive toy motor car.

"Where did you get that?" queried his mother.

"I got it from Johnny for doing him a favor," said Tommy putting the car away.

"What was the favor?"

"I was hitting him on the head," Tommy replied, "and he asked me to stop."

Arithmetic

36. TEACHER: "Jimmy, if your father earned eighty dollars a week and gave your mother half, what would she have?"

JIMMY: "Heart failure."

37. "Your history exercise was bad, Johnny, so I told you to write it out twenty times. You've only done it ten times."

"Yes, teacher—my arithmetic is bad, too."

38. ECONOMICS PROFESSOR: "If a farmer raises 5,000 bushels of potatoes and has to sell them at a dollar per bushel below parity, what does that mean to him?"

SOPHOMORE: "A new Cadillac."

39. The father had just given his reckless teen-age son a lecture on his wild behavior.

"Do you know what happens," he concluded, "when you break one of the Ten Commandments?"

"Sure, Pop," was the youth's calm reply. "You have nine left."

40. On arriving home from school, six-year-old Sean went into the backyard to see his pet rabbit. He grabbed the little animal by the ears, tapped him gently, and bellowed out, "Two and two." This ritual went on until his mother came out. She asked the reason for his peculiar behavior.

"Well," the youngster replied, pushing the pet aside. "Teacher told us today that rabbits multiply rapidly, but this dumb bunny can't even add!"

41. After Noah had put the last of his animal passengers ashore, he made a tour of the ark and came across two little snakes crying in the corner. "Why are you crying, matical processes, was astonished.

"Well!" he exclaimed. "How did you come to get that snakes.

"Why can't you go ashore? I told all of the animals and creatures to go forth and multiply."

"That's just it," cried the snakes. "We're adders."

42. Two men had an argument as to which was the better mathematician. A friend proposed this test problem: If a fishing crew caught 500 pounds of cod and sold it for three cents a pound, how much would they receive for their catch?

The old-timers brooded over this but neither volunteered an answer. At last one asked to have the problem repeated.

"If a fishing crew caught 500 pounds of cod . . ." began the friend.

"Wait a minute!" cried the oldster. "Did you say cod?"

"Yes."

"Durn it all, no wonder I couldn't get the right answer. I was figurin' all the time on *salmon!*"

43. Woman is said to know more by intuition than man by reason. Certainly she has so many ways of knowing things that she does not need to follow the straight route of logic. At a dinner party, the conversation sailed into the eddies of conundrums.

The ages of Ann and Mary were discussed backward and forward, and the frog that slipped back one foot for every two feet he progressed at length got out of the hole. Finally someone asked:

"If a bottle and a cork together cost a dollar and ten cents, and the bottle costs a dollar more than the cork, how much does the cork cost?"

Instantly one of the ladies was ready with an answer. "Why the cork costs five cents and the bottle a dollar and five cents."

The lady's husband, knowing her inexactness in mathematical processes, was astonished.

"Well!" he exclaimed. "How did you come to get that so soon?"

"Why, my dear," she replied, "corks always cost five cents, don't they?"

Armed forces

44. A boy may join the army to forget a girl, but he'll soon start looking for girls to forget the army.

45. A sailor came into a recruiting office and said, "Gimme that ol' sales talk again. I'm getting kinda discouraged."

46. PARATROOPER TRAINEE: "But what if the parachute doesn't open?"

INSTRUCTOR: "That's what is called jumping to a conclusion."

47. FIRST SOLDIER: "Yes."

SECOND SOLDIER: "Yes."

FIRST SOLDIER: "You must have a terrible home life."

48. The general was described in a newspaper as "a bottle-scarred veteran." An apology was demanded and the offending phrase was changed to "battle-scared."

49. MRS. M.: "Why are you knitting your son three socks instead of a pair?"

MRS. W.: "He just wrote home that he's grown another foot since being in the Army."

50. The major looked up from his desk at the first class private and snapped: "Now really, I ask you, in civilian life would you come to me with a puny complaint like this?"

"No, sir," was the reply, "I'd send for you."

51. An earnest young soldier reports that he joined the army for three reasons: "First, I wanted to fight to defend my country. Second, I knew it would build me up physically. Third, they came and got me."

52. A paratrooper was home on furlough. "How many jumps have you made?" one of his friends asked.

"Only one," admitted the paratrooper. "My service record shows 20 but on the other 19 I was pushed."

53. During an Army lecture on compliments and saluting, the sergeant-major was very particular to insist that all officers must be punctiliously saluted. "Even second-lieutenants?" asked a rookie. "*Especially* second-lieutenants," replied the S.M. firmly.

54. The sergeant was talking to the rookie who was about to be discharged: "Well, I s'pose you hate my guts and will be waiting 'til I die so you can spit on my grave?"

"Nope," said the rookie, "after I shed this uniform I never want to stand in line again."

55. A girl called the long distance operator to help locate her GI boy friend in a distant army camp.

"What outfit is he in?" asked the operator.

"In his fatigues, I imagine," was the reply. "He's always on KP duty."

56. DRAFTEE'S FATHER (at army camp): "And where is my son, Private Smith?"

SERGEANT: "A.W.O.L."

DRAFTEE'S FATHER: "What do you mean by that?"

SERGEANT: "After women or liquor."

57. Displaying her wedding gifts, the bride came to one from the groom's Army buddy. "I just adore these personalized gifts," she said. "We received towels and washcloths with HIS and HERS on them, but," she blushed, "this is even more personal."

And she fingered an olive drab blanket with the letters US stamped in the middle.

58. The paratroopers were aloft for their first jump. Everything went off in perfect order, until the last man came forward to jump. "Hold it!" shouted his commanding officer. "You're not wearing your parachute!"

"Oh, that's all right, sir," replied the recruit. "We're just practicing, aren't we?"

59. A fond mother received the following letter from her sailor son:

"Dear Mum—I joined the Navy because I liked the way ships were kept so clean and tidy. But I never knew until this week who keeps them so clean and tidy. Love, Billy."

60. A group of newly-enlisted Service women were listening to a long lecture on standards in the Service. After much advice as to what to do and what not to do in uniform, the speaker ended: "And if you're going to do anything that would disgrace your uniform, take it off."

61. The new Corporal was trying to make some headway with the cute little trick on the bus. She had ignored him and he kept shoving his stripes up where she could get a better view. Finally she turned to him and said, "Corporal, I will have you understand that I do not talk to anything lower than a 2nd Lieutenant!"

"Lady," he replied, "there ain't nothing lower than a 2nd Lieutenant!"

62. A Naval recruit lost his rifle on the firing range. When told that he'd have to pay for it, he protested: "Suppose I was driving a Naval truck and somebody stole it, would I have to pay for that, too?" He was informed that he would have to pay for all Government property he lost.

"Now," the recruit said, "I know why the captain always goes down with his ship."

63. The raw recruits were lined up for their first review and the Colonel stopped before one very sad sack. "Your face is unshaven," snapped the Colonel. "Your boots are unpolished. Your tunic is unbuttoned. Who told you you're a soldier?"

Weakly the sad sack replied, "My draft board."

64. During the meeting of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, one of the members moved that "the standing army be restricted to 5,000 men at any one time." George Washington, being chairman, could not move an amendment, but he turned to another member and whis-

pered: "Amend the motion to provide that no foreign army shall invade the United States at any time with more than 3,000 troops."

65. OFFICER (very angry): "Not a man in this division will be given liberty this weekend."

VOICE IN RANKS: "Give me liberty or give me death."

OFFICER: "Who said that?"

VOICE: "Patrick Henry."

66. SERGEANT (addressing platoon): "Is there any man here who knows anything about music?"

ROOKIE (swiftly): "Yes, sir, I do."

SERGEANT: "Then you can go and shift the piano in the sergeants' mess hall."

67. He appeared before the company officer, charged with using insulting language to his sergeant.

"Please, sir," he protested, "I was only answering a question."

"What question?" snapped the officer.

"Well, sir, the sergeant said 'Who do you think I am?' and I told him."

68. A highly decorated soldier, asked how he happened to win the Distinguished Service Cross, explained it this way:

"The Colonel said he needed a volunteer for an extremely dangerous mission, and he said it was unlikely the man would ever return. Then he asked one man to step forward."

"And you stepped forward?" gushed one woman, admiringly.

"Not exactly," said the soldier. "The rest of the line stepped backwards."

69. The lieutenant at a small outpost had a new recruit assigned to keep quarters bright and clean. He was quiet, competent—and always called the lieutenant "Major." A sergeant drew him aside one morning and said, "Soldier, haven't you been in this man's army long enough to know that one gold bar denotes a looie, not a major?" "If it's

all the same to you, sergeant," implored the recruit, "you won those stripes your way; let me earn mine my way."

70. The captain had been lecturing his men on their duties as soldiers, and wanting to know whether they remembered his teaching, he said to one of them:

"Now then, Private Dooley, why should a soldier be ready to die for his country?"

The Irishman scratched his head for a while: then an irritating and enlightening smile flitted across his face.

"Sure, Captain," he said pleasantly, "you're quite right. Why should he?"

71. During World War II, a buck private and a sergeant were court-martialed for striking a colonel.

Asked why he had done it, the sergeant explained that the colonel, while passing down the line of review, had stepped on his sore foot.

"Instinctively," said the sergeant, "I threw up my guard, like anyone would do, and let him have it before I realized what had actually happened. It was an accident, I can assure you."

Then the buck private was asked for his explanation. "Well, you see, sir," he replied, "when I saw the sergeant strike the colonel, I thought the war was over."

72. A traveler was talking to a farmer who had a large number of men at work in his hay fields. "They're mostly ex-Service men," he said. "The private's a fine worker, and that corporal over there isn't bad."

"Any ex-officers?"

"Oh, yes. That man there was a major. He's not much use. I've got a colonel, too."

"Is he a good worker?"

"Well, sir, I won't say a word against a colonel, but I can tell you I'm not hiring any generals this year!"

73. The members of a crew on a submarine were about to take battle stations, and the ship's captain was worried about a young seaman second class whose job it was to close the watertight doors between certain compartments.

The boy didn't seem to realize his responsibility and the captain undertook to impress him.

He told him that if he failed in his job the ship might be lost, and it had cost around eight million dollars. Not only that, some of the men aboard were specialists and it cost Uncle Sam thousands to train each of them; these men might be drowned.

"So you see how important it is that you do your job right. This very expensive ship, these important men—" the captain concluded.

"Yes, sir, and then there's me, too," replied the lad.

The captain stopped worrying.

74. After weeks of intensive training, an army rookie who had come from the hill country was ready for the rifle range. Taking his rifle and aiming it with the keen eye of a man who is familiar with guns, he fired. He fired five times and the astounding result was five bull's eyes. The rifle instructor took the draftee's weapon and examined it. He was dumbfounded.

"I can't understand," he said, "how you could get five bull's eyes on a 600-yard range with your sights set for 300 yards."

The rookie's face broke into a slow grin. "See that rock halfway down there?" he said, pointing. "Well, I'm bouncing them off that."

75. The raw recruit was thirty seconds late on the morning of his first routine inspection, and was required to report to the orderly room.

"I am extremely sorry, sir," he apologized, "but I woke rather late, and there were only ten minutes for me to dress in."

"Ten minutes!" roared the angry sergeant. "Why, I can dress comfortably in less than ten minutes!"

The rookie shifted his weight from one foot to the other.

"Yes, sir," he said with all innocence. "But I had to wash, sir."

76. When Major General Merritt was dealing with Aguinaldo, he sought a conference with Admiral Dewey on the *Olympia*. There was considerable discussion as to jurisdiction. Finally General Merritt said:

"Admiral, how far, in your opinion, does your jurisdiction extend on the island?"

Admiral Dewey took two short turns on the quarter-deck before answering. Then he said:

"General, my jurisdiction extends from as close to shore as I can move these flatirons," pointing to the American fleet, "to as far into the island as I can throw a shell."

77. It was an extremely hot day and the sergeant in charge of bayonet drill at an Army base was trying hard to get his listless men to attack the stuffed dummies with more energy. Finally he halted the drill and said, "Listen, men, those dummies are your enemy. They have burned your house and killed your parents. They carried away your sisters, stole all your money and drank up all of the whiskey in the house."

The sergeant then stepped back and motioned the recruits forward toward the row of dummies. The line surged ahead with new purpose. The men with grim looks on their faces showed eagerness to attack. One recruit, his eyes stern and his lips drawn back over his teeth in a snarl, paused to ask: "Sergeant, which one drank that whiskey?"

78. "Well, well, Mrs. Jones," said the high school principal "and how is our George doing in the army?"

"Just wonderful," replied the beaming mother. "He has already made AWOL, and he expects to get a court martial next."

79. A draftee was awakened by his platoon sergeant after the rookie's first night in an army barracks.

"It's four-thirty," bellowed the sergeant.

"Four-thirty!" gasped the rookie. "Man, you'd better go to bed. We got a big day tomorrow."

Army. See *Armed forces*

Art

80. LADY ART CRITIC (to distinguished painter): "Are you doing anything in the nude now, Mr. Van Dauber?"

MR. VAN DAUBER: "Only bathing, madam."

81. A cynical minded gentleman was standing in front of an exhibition of local art talent labeled, "Art Objects."

"Well," he announced to the attendant in charge, "I can't say I blame Art for objecting."

82. Rubens was once asked how he knew when the picture he was painting was finished. The old gentleman rolled his eyes: "Sir," he said, "when their backsides look good enough to slap, there's nothing more to do."

83. A guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City was taking a group of sightseers through its beautiful halls. He pointed to the various paintings and gave a brief history of the life of each painter. After he had concluded, he asked if there were any questions.

"Yes," wheezed one old lady, "I would like to know how you got such a high gloss on your beautifully waxed floors."

84. The night porter of the house where artist Pablo Picasso, the extreme modernist, was staying in Paris, helped the gendarmes catch a burglar by remembering the man's appearance and then sketching it.

Picasso was impressed, so when his place was robbed soon after, he observed the bandit who bound him with rope, and later did a painting of the man which he handed to the gendarme. Guided by the sketch, they promptly rounded up 200 people, a house, a hearse, a pair of old boots and a can opener.

85. Cross-examining his client's wife in a bitterly contested divorce proceeding, the attorney exhibited a painting of her in the nude and demanded: "You say you didn't pose for this picture; how then could the artist paint you so closely?"

"He must have done it from memory," she stammered.

86. A woman bounced into an art gallery and made a superficial tour of the exhibits.

"Are these the masterpieces I have heard so much about?" she asked, with a scornful tone of voice. "I don't see anything in them."

Quietly, the curator said, "Madam, don't you wish you could?"

87. Mrs. Horace Havemeyer, whose collection of paintings is today the pride of New York's Metropolitan Museum, was once confronted by a wealthy, bejewelled dowager who asked, rather scornfully, why she spent so much money on dabs of paint on paper and canvas. Mrs. Havemeyer examined the dowager's pearl necklace for a long and studious moment before answering, "I prefer to have something made by a man than to have something made by an oyster."

88. "Look lady," said the sidewalk artist to a woman bystander, "would you like to buy this beautiful landscape?"

The woman glanced at the canvas and threw up her hands.

"Why, I never saw such an awful-looking painting," she exclaimed. "It's frightful."

"Lady," said the indignant artist, "I only paint what I see."

"Then," retorted the woman, "you shouldn't paint when you're in that condition."

89. George Bernard Shaw once visited sculptor Jacob Epstein in the latter's studio. As they chatted, Shaw noticed a huge block of stone in a corner of the room.

"What is that for?" he asked.

"I don't know yet," said Epstein. "I'm still making plans."

"You mean you plan your work?" exclaimed Shaw. "You, an artist? Why, I change my mind several times a day!"

"That's all right with a four-ounce manuscript," replied Epstein, "but not with a four-ton block."

90. An artist had set up his easel near a low-bridge crossing on the Blanco River near Wimberley, in the dude ranch country of central Texas. He was starting to work when a car stopped and a lady got out.

"What are you going to paint?" she asked brightly. He swept his hand across the view in front of his easel. "The river," he answered.

An hour later, the same car stopped again and the same lady got out to peer over his shoulder. She studied the picture taking form on the canvas. "You still painting that river?" she asked. He nodded. "You know," she said helpfully, "you can buy a good picture of that river on a postcard at the Wimberly store."

91. An elderly gentleman went into an East 57th Street art emporium and announced that he was particularly interested in a painting he'd seen in the window of the place. The proprietor proposed a price, the gentleman accepted, and the sale seemed to have been consummated.

"There's just one thing more," said the gentleman. "Is the painter of this alive or dead?"

"Very much alive," said the proprietor.

"Well, I'm damned!" said the gentleman. "Wouldn't have modern truck in my house." And with that he stalked out.

92. The composer, Maurice Ravel, was an enthusiastic collector of rare books and prints, fine porcelains, and other *objects d'art*. In his study, occupying a place of honor on a pedestal, stood his most treasured possession —a ball of smoked crystal, which he pointed to with great pride.

"Maurice," his guests would whisper in awe, "where did you get it? It's exquisite!"

"You really think so?" he would answer modestly. "Well, it's just a burned-out electric bulb."

93. A wealthy New Yorker, in quest of an even wealthier widow, consulted a marriage broker. A candidate described as "looking like a picture" took the client's fancy and arrangements were made for a meeting in a certain Broadway night spot.

The client winced as he spotted the woman, conspicuous by her cauliflower ears, a nose resembling a bent fender and a hank of hair over her forehead like a dangling participle. "I thought," he fumed at the go-between, "that she was supposed to look like a picture."

The broker shrugged, "Either you like Picasso or you don't."

Audience

94. On a one-night stand in Flint, Michigan, Victor Borge was not daunted by the fact that the house was less than half filled. Looking out at the slim audience, he said, "Flint must be an extremely wealthy town; I see that each of you bought two or three seats."

95. One evening when Winston Churchill was addressing a meeting in America, a woman cornered him and said in a treacly, gushing voice: "Doesn't it thrill you, Mr. Churchill, to know that every time you make a speech the hall is packed to overflowing?" "It is quite flattering," Mr. Churchill replied, "but whenever I feel this way I always remember that if instead of making a political speech I was being hanged, the crowd would be twice as big."

96. In the Dublin Hospitals' Rugby Final, a student of St. Vincent's, which was playing Steevens', scored the winning try. He was miles offside, as he well knew, but somehow the referee didn't spot it. This worried him for the rest of his life, but not quite enough to prevent his becoming an eminent surgeon.

In the fullness of time he died and reached the Golden Gates, where he was greeted by a dear old gentleman, who smiled benevolently upon him.

"Before coming in here, sir," said the worthy surgeon humbly, "I wish to make a confession about something which has been bothering me for the last fifty years."

"Surely you don't mean that little thing in the Hospitals' Rugger Final," answered the kindly door-keeper. "We know all about it here, of course, and it has given some of us a lot of laughs. Please get it out of your mind and just step inside."

Then he added *sotto voce*: "Perhaps I ought to make it clear that my colleague, St. Peter, has the day off. I am St. Vincent."

Authorship

97. I might recall the time an ambitious poet sent a poem to Eugene Field entitled, "Why Do I Live?" Gene immediately wrote back: "Because you sent your poem by mail."

98. "The last thing I wrote was a confession story."

"Did you sell it?"

"No, but the editor came all the way here just to meet me."

99. An editor tried hard to cheer a disconsolate author. "What you should do," he counseled, "is climb out of your lonely shell. Get married, take a nice apartment in town, give parties, have children."

"If you don't mind," groaned the author, "I think I'll commit suicide."

100. An English teacher, having read some of Milton's poetry to her young class one day, mentioned to them that the great poet was blind. One question asked on the examination the next day was:

"What was Milton's great affliction?"

On one paper was scribbled, simply: "He was a poet."

101. The publisher of a magazine had laid down an iron-clad rule that there must never be an off-color situation or an indecent word or suggestion in the paper.

This rule was broken when the end of the first installment of a serial found the secretary-heroine having a drink with her boss at his home, his wife away, and night drawing on. To the deep shock of many readers, the second installment began with the two having breakfast.

The editor prepared a routine letter to answer indignant mail. It read: "We cannot be responsible for what the characters in our serials do between installments."

102. Like most prominent authors, Sir James Barrie received frequent requests from aspiring writers to read their efforts. A would-be novelist once handed him a 1500-page manuscript, asking him to read it and suggest a title. Barrie handed it back. "Tell me, young man," he said, "are there any drums or trumpets in your novel?"

"Why, no, Sir James," the young man protested. "It isn't that kind of book at all."

"Good!" said Barrie. "Then call it *No Drums, No Trumpets.*"

Automobile

103. A prospective buyer walked into the showroom and said to the proprietor: "I would like to see a first-class second-hand car."

The proprietor looked at him, and smiled as he replied, "So would I, brother."

104. QUESTION: "Why is a car always referred to as a 'she' or 'her'?"

ANSWER: "Because cars are improved by paint, the foreign ones are in demand, the newer models preferred, judged to a large extent by body style, expensive, undependable, temperamental, unpredictable, and hard to get along without."

105. While traveling through Florida's panhandle country, a newsman stopped at a small town for lunch. He found a likely-appearing drugstore, parked his small foreign sports car out front and went in.

When he came out, a lanky farmer in overalls was circling the little car, peering curiously at points that caught his interest. As the newsman approached, the farmer stepped back on the sidewalk.

"Good morning," said the owner.

"Morning," returned the farmer, and, running a judicial eye over the sports car, added: "Picked that one before it was ripe, didn't you, stranger?"

Bachelorhood

106. One of the things that puzzle married men is why every bachelor isn't rich.

107. SPINSTER: "Don't you think 55 years is a pretty late age to get married?"

BACHELOR: "Not at all. If you marry the right girl, then it was worthwhile waiting. If you don't, then you'll have plenty of her as is."

108. Two old bachelors got off on the subject of cooking, and one of them commented, "I bought a cook book once, but never used it. Too much fancy work in it."

"What do you mean?" asked the other.

"Why, everyone of those danged recipes began, "Take a clean dish,' and that stopped me every time."

Baldness

109. What a waste of time!—a baldheaded man listening to a hair-raising yarn on the radio.

110. FATHER: "No, you can't wear your hair like Elvis Presley."

SON: "But dad, you wear yours like Yul Brynner."

111. Asked the child: "Why doesn't Daddy have hair on his head?"

"Daddy thinks a great deal, dear."

The child mulled this over and then wanted to know, "But, Mummy, why do you have so much hair on your head?"

"Hush—and eat your breakfast!"

Bank—Banks—Banking

112. A businessman sought to borrow $100,000 from the bank. "That's a lot of money," said the bank president. "Can you give me a statement?"

"Yes," said the businessman. "I'm optimistic."

113. When she learned that she had overdrawn her account by five dollars at the bank, a very conscientious housewife sat down and hastily wrote a note of apology to the bank and enclosed her personal check to cover the amount.

114. "My credit is really improving," commented one businessman to another. "Why, I went over to the bank this morning to borrow a thousand dollars, and the loan officer received me very politely."

"He lent you the money, of course?"

"No, not quite. But he hesitated a moment before refusing me."

115. Two hungry lions were lying in the brush at dawn. A man passed close by.

"There goes that successful banker and big game hunter," said one lion. "Let's get him."

"Don't be silly," said the other, "no one puts the bite on a banker before nine o'clock in the morning."

116. Old Mrs. Green, who lived alone, was a bit eccentric. One day while visiting a neighbor, she revealed that she kept all her savings hidden in a shoe box in her bedroom.

"But that's foolish," said the neighbor. "You should have your money in a savings bank; you are losing the interest this way."

"Oh, no, I'm not," said the old lady, winking slyly. "I'm putting away a little extra to take care of that."

117. A sweet young thing of our acquaintance has recently become a bride, married in fact, to one of our

best friends. He reports that upon arriving home for dinner one night last week, she looked at him with a little frown and said, "John, dear, I don't think we should patronize that bank we're doing business with any more."

John was somewhat puzzled. "Why, dear?" he asked.

"Because they constantly seem to be running out of money, John. Two of my checks came back today marked 'No Funds.'"

118. "I'll test your sagacity," said the banker to a young man whom he turned down for a loan. "I have one genuine and one artificial eye. If you will point out my genuine eye, I will approve your loan."

The young man gazed into both his eyes and said: "Your left eye is the good one."

"That's perfect," approved the banker somewhat surprised. "How can you tell?"

"Because I thought I saw a little sympathy in the other one," speculated the young man.

119. The phone rang longer than usual. "Mr. Smith," said a stern voice, "our accounts show that you owe the bank fifty dollars; you have overdrawn your account to that extent."

"Is that so?" said Smith. "Well, I wish you'd do me a favor. Will you go back into your books and see how we stood in January?"

Two minutes later the cashier phoned again. "Mr. Smith, your account shows that in January there was a two thousand dollar credit balance."

Smith's reply came triumphantly over the wire: "Well, did I call you in January?"

Barber—Barber shop

120. A customer went into the barber shop. "What's the idea of your hands being so dirty?" he asked the barber.

"Nobody's had a shampoo yet today," confessed the barber.

121. A barber shop customer was complaining about the price of hair-cuts. "I'm just back from London," he said, "Over there I was able to get a good haircut for 65 cents."

"Yeah," retorted the barber. "But look at the fare."

122. The barber held his razor in a ready position and inquired of the customer in his chair, "Shall I go over your face again, sir?"

"Well, it's all right if you go *over* it," replied the victim, "but please don't go *under* it like you did the first time."

123. Because of the heat, the baby in the barber chair just wore rompers.

The sweating barber clipped angrily away at the hair, ignoring both the child's screams and the mother's plea of "don't cut it too short."

After he was finished, the child leaped off the chair and ran to its father getting shaved in another chair.

The father looked down and said to the barber, "That's the worst haircut I've ever seen."

The exasperated barber growled at the father, "That's the same haircut I give all little boys, and I've never had any complaints."

"Boy!" the father yelled. "This is a girl!"

Beauty

124. TEACHER: "What tense is, 'I am beautiful'?"

JUNIOR: "Past."

125. SAILOR: "Drinking makes you look beautiful."

SHE: "But I haven't been drinking."

SAILOR: "I have."

126. WIFE: "Will you love me when my hair turns to gray?"

HUSBAND: "Why not? Haven't I stuck with you through brown, black, red, blonde and purple?"

127. It's amazing what a little change can do for your appearance. Grandma got an Italian hair bob. Now she

doesn't look like an old lady any more—she looks like an old man.

128. A druggist met an old friend in the street. "Hello, Bill," he said. "Did that mudpack I sold help your wife's appearance?"

"It did for a couple of days," the man sighed, "but then it wore off."

129. JANE: "I just got back from the beauty parlor. I was there three hours."

ANN: "Too bad that you stayed so long and then didn't get waited on."

Beggar—Beggars—Begging

130. "What are we having for tea, Mary?"

"Sponge cake, dear. I sponged the eggs from Mrs. Farrell, the flour from Mrs. Casey, and the sugar from Mrs. O'Hara."

131. LADY AT KITCHEN DOOR: "You know, you'd stand a better chance of getting work if you'd shave, have your hair cut, and clean yourself up."

TRAMP: "Yes'm. I found that out."

132. A panhandler approached a pedestrian and said: "Give me a dime to buy a cup of coffee?"

PEDESTRIAN: "But I just gave you a dime ten minutes ago."

PANHANDLER: "Stop living in the past."

133. A man was moving along a dimly lighted street when a stranger slipped from the shadows and stopped him.

"What do you want?" asked the man nervously.

"Would you be so kind," said the stranger plaintively, "as to help a poor unfortunate fellow who is hungry and out of work? All I have in the world is this gun!"

Behavior

134. HOSTESS: "I am afraid your little brother is awfully shy. He hasn't moved from that one spot all afternoon."

BIG SISTER: "Oh, he isn't shy. This is the first time he ever wore a necktie, and he thinks he is tied to something."

135. "Bobby," said the teacher sternly, "do you know that you have broken the Eighth Commandment by stealing James' apple?"

"Well," explained Bobby, "I might just as well break the Eighth and have the apple as to break the Tenth and only covet it."

136. A Sunday School teacher finished a talk on behavior and what we must do to go to heaven. "Now, Tommy," she said, "tell me what we must do before we can expect forgiveness of sin."

Tommy thought a bit, then replied, "We gotta sin."

137. A devout Negro clergyman was asked by one of his parishioners to explain the doctrine of election. His reply was: "You know what an election is, when we elect the president and the governor. In the Kingdom of God there is always an election going on. Only three votes are cast. The Lord always votes for you. The devil always votes against you. And you have the deciding vote."

138. On an airplane flight a spoiled child annoyed the passengers by running up and down the aisle and making noise. When the hostess started serving coffee, he ran against her, knocking the cups of coffee to the floor.

As he stood watching her clean up the mess, she glanced up at the boy and said: "Look, why don't you go and play outside?"

139. Two boys were deep in a discussion of life and death. "It's this way," explained one, "if you live right on the day before you die, all will be forgiven."

"Yes," said the other, "but how do you know when you're going to die?"

The first lad patted his friend's shoulder. "That's it —you don't."

140. SCOUTMASTER: "Jimmy, what good deed did you do today?"

JIMMY: "Well, a lady who got on the bus I was on had lost her purse and couldn't pay her fare. . ."

SCOUTMASTER (interrupting): "And you paid the fare, I presume?"

JIMMY: "Oh, no! I told her the short cut for her walk downtown."

Bible, The

141. "Mama, is it true that we came from dust and will return to dust?"

"Yes, dear. That is what the Bible teaches us. Why?"

"Well, I just looked under the bed, and there's somebody there, either coming or going."

142. A young man preparing for a long trip remarked to his companion, "I am just about packed. I only have to put in a guide book, a lamp, a mirror, a microscope, a telescope, a volume of fine poetry, a few biographies, a package of old letters, a book of songs, a sword, a hammer, and a set of books I have been studying."

But his companion protested, "You can't get all that in your bag."

"Oh, yes, it doesn't take much room," replied the young man as he placed his Bible in the corner of the suitcase and closed the lid.

143. An eight-year-old lad was asked by his mother what he had learned at Sunday school. "Well," he said, "our teacher told us about when God sent Moses behind the enemy lines to rescue the Israelites from the Egyptians. When they came to the Red Sea, Moses called for the engineers to build a pontoon bridge. After they had all crossed, they all looked back and saw the Egyptians' tanks coming. Moses radioed headquarters on his walkie-talkie to send bombers to blow up the bridge and saved the Israelites.

"Bobby!" exclaimed his mother. "Is that really the way your teacher told you that story?"

"Not exactly," Bobby admitted. "But if I told it her way, you'd never believe it."

Blame

144. "I wish to complain," said the new bride, haughtily, "about the flour you sold me. It was tough."

"Tough?" asked the grocer, in surprise.

"Yes, tough. I made biscuits with it, and my husband couldn't eat them."

145. The father entered the room just as the children were starting a free-for-all. "See here, Johnny," said the father, grabbing one of the youngsters, "who started this?"

"Well," said Johnny, "it's all Freddy's fault. He started it when he hit me back."

146. Man is inclined, when in the wrong, to lay the blame on someone else. He is like the small boy who was standing on the cat's tail. The mother, hearing the terrible outburst, called from an adjoining room, "Tommy, stop pulling that cat's tail!"

Tommy yelled back, "I'm not pulling the cat's tail. I'm only standing on it. He's the one that's doing the pulling."

147. "Officer," stormed the motorist to the policeman, "I clearly had the right of way when this man ran into me, and yet you say I'm to blame."

The local officer eyed him accusingly: "You certainly were."

"But why?" the ruffled driver wanted to know.

"Because," the officer replied, "the Mayor of this town is the father of the fellow you hit, his brother is Chief of Police, and what's more I go steady with his sister!"

148. The man answered his doorbell and a friend walked in, followed by a big, shaggy dog. As they sat talking, the dog bumped into an end-table sending a lamp

crashing to the floor. Then he chewed on the rug for a while. Restless, he roamed through the house, his progress marked by crashes and tinkling glass. Then he jumped upon the sofa, with his muddy feet, and curled up for a nap.

The outraged householder, unable to contain himself any longer, burst out, "Don't you think you should train your dog better?" "My dog!" exclaimed the friend, surprised. "I thought it was your dog!"

Books

149. A youngster looking in a bookstore window asked his mother, "what are those things?"

"Those are books, dear. That's what movies we see on television are made of."

150. Raymond Weaver, one of the great teachers of the Western Humanities at Columbia, was asked by a lady at a dinner party whether he had read *Gone With The Wind*, which he hadn't. She said, "You ought to. It's been out six months."

"Have you read the *Divine Comedy?*" he asked. "No," she answered. "Well, you ought to; it's been out six hundred years."

Boredom

151. Thomas Edison hated formal dinners, which always seemed stuffy affairs to him. One night at a particularly dull gathering, he decided to sneak away to his laboratory.

As he was pacing back and forth near the door, waiting for an opportunity to escape, his host came up.

"It certainly is a delight to see you, Mr. Edison," he said. "What are you working on now?"

"My exit," replied the inventor.

152. Bernard Shaw had been bored for several hours at a dinner party by the pretentious and pedantic discourse of a man who was trying to impress him.

"You know," Shaw said at last to this fountain of unsolicited information, "between the two of us we know all there is to be known."

"Really?" asked the delighted conversationalist, "How is that?"

"Well," said Shaw, "you seem to know everything except that you're a bore. And I," concluded the great man, "know that!"

153. When Sherman Adams was asked by a representative of Maxwell Droke's *Quote* why he left the comparative political "safety" of the White House to make a highly partisan speech in Minnesota, the President's top assistant answered the question by telling the story of a man who frequented a house of ill fame.

It was his custom to have a brief chat with the madam before calling on the girls. Once he was surprised to find this person absent from her post. She was back with the girls.

"What are you doing here?" asked the surprised visitor.

"Oh," said the madam, "sometimes I just get bored with administration."

Borrow—Borrowing

154. SOLDIER (broke) TO PAL: "Do you remember the old saying, 'A friend in need is a friend indeed?' "

"Yes, stranger."

155. "I don't recall ever borrowing $20 from you."

"I loaned it to you when you were drunk."

"Then I paid it back to you when you were drunk."

156. "I'm sorry, George, but I make it a rule never to lend money. It ruins a friendship."

"Don't worry about that; we never were what you would really call good friends."

157. Tom was complaining confidentially to Dick. "That Harry is always broke. I simply can't imagine what he

does with his money. He was short yesterday, and he's short again today."

"Why," asked Dick. "Is he trying to borrow money from you?"

"Nope," said Tom. "I was trying to borrow from him."

Bride-Groom

158. BRIDE: "Darling, I took the recipe for this cake out of the cook book."

GROOM: "And you did right, my love; it should never have been put in."

159. Cultivating logical thought development has its difficult moments.

One bright boy attending his first wedding asked his mother why the bride was dressed in white. "Because," she answered, "white stands for purity and joy."

"Then why," was the prompt retort, "does the groom wear black?"

160. The bride of only a few months was at the airport to meet her husband when he returned from abroad. They were waiting for his luggage when he pointed out a good looking stewardess from the plane, Miss Tracy.

"How do you happen to know her name?" she asked.

He explained that it was listed, together with the names of the pilot and co-pilot, on the door of the cockpit.

The wife's next question was a classic which he could not answer. "Dear," she asked, "what was the pilot's name?"

Brotherhood

161. Alexander the Great, seeing Diogenes looking attentively at a large collection of human bones piled one upon another, asked the philosopher what he was looking for.

"I am searching," said Diogenes, "for the bones of your father, but I cannot distinguish them from those of his slaves."

162. A somewhat disheveled member of an audience at a church discussion meeting on brotherhood angrily interrupted the speaker, shouting, "Brotherhood has been preached for the last two thousand years, and look at the state of the world!" The speaker promptly replied: "Yes, and water has been in the world a good deal longer than that, and look at the state of your face!"

163. "What church do you go to?" asked a seven-year-old youngster of a neighbor child.

"I don't go to church. I go to temple. I am Jewish."

"Jewish?" questioned the first child. "What's that?"

"Well," said the seven-year-old patiently, "you know there are Protestants, Catholics and Jews, but they're just different ways of voting for God!"

164. A famine was on in the land and a beggar on a street corner reached out to Tolstoy, who was passing by. Russia's great man stopped, searched for a coin but found none. With genuine sorrow, he said: "Don't be angry with me, my brother. I have nothing with me."

The beggar's face lighted up as he replied, "But you called me brother—that is a great gift."

Business

165. ONE BUSINESSMAN TO ANOTHER: "We're a non-profit organization. We didn't mean to be, but we are."

166. "And remember, my friends," the lecturer told his audience, "there will be no buying and selling in Heaven. . ."

"That," mumbled a lumberman at a back table, "is not where business has gone."

167. CUSTOMER: "I hear your store was robbed last night. Lose much?"

OWNER: "Some. But it would have been a whole lot worse if the yeggs had gotten in the night before. You see yesterday I just finished marking everything down to the March 1st level."

168. BOSS: "Integrity and wisdom are essential to success in this business. Integrity means when you promise a customer something, keep that promise even if we lose money."

NEW EMPLOYEE: "And what is wisdom?"

BOSS: "Don't make such promises."

169. Smith bought a business through an agent as a going concern. After six months he failed, but took his trouble very lightly. Meeting the agent some time later, he said, "Do you remember selling me a business as a going concern?"

"Yes, of course I do," said the agent.

"Well," said Smith, "it's gone."

170. A lumberman was complaining to a friend that he couldn't sleep.

"Well," said his friend, "Why don't you try counting sheep—or better still, since you're in the lumber business, count trees."

"No good," said the lumberman. "I've tried it and it doesn't work. Last night I counted trees. Cut 'em, hauled 'em to the mill, sawed 'em into boards, dried 'em, Planned 'em, then offered the whole lot for sale. Best offer I could get was less than my cost and I lost $200 on the deal. Didn't sleep a wink!"

171. Farmer Jones bought Farmer Smith's sorrel mare for $100 cash. Smith got to thinking that since Jones paid the price so willingly, the mare must be worth more. Next day he bought the mare back for $200. Later Jones again bought the mare—for $300. This kept going on until the price went up to $1,500.

Then a horse trader from another county came on the scene and bought the horse from Smith for $2,000. Hearing of this, Jones hurried over to Smith and berated him. "You are a fool, selling that mare. Both of us were making a good living off of her!"

172. The bookkeeper excitedly informed the owner of a comparatively new business that the firm was out of the red for the first time.

"Wonderful!" exclaimed the proud businessman. "Make up two dozen copies of that statement immediately and send them to the bank and all my creditors."

"Sorry," said the bookkeeper. "We haven't any black typewriter ribbon—we never needed it before."

"Well," ordered the boss, "go out and buy some."

"Can't" came the determined answer. "That would put us right back in the red again."

173. One incident in connection with the development of electrical lighting is especially interesting. Edison sold electric bulbs for forty cents each, while they cost $1.10. Then he got the cost down to eighty cents, but still sold them for forty cents. The third year the cost was reduced to fifty cents, with the losses skyrocketing because of rapidly increased sales. By the fourth year, costs were down to thirty-seven cents, and the losses were quickly recovered. Electric lighting would have been greatly retarded had Edison insisted on making a profit on the earlier lamp sales that were made.

174. A horse dealer bought a horse which attracted the attention of a farmer. "Want to sell?" he asked.

"Well, I bought this horse for my own use, but there's no reason why I shouldn't sell him if we can agree on a price."

"How much do you want for him?"

"I paid $150 for him and I think I'm entitled to a profit of $50. If you want him for $200, he's yours."

The deal was made and the horse was delivered. The animal was just as represented and proved satisfactory to the new owner. Imagine the latter's surprise, however, when he received a check for $50 from the dealer, with a note which said: "I told you I paid $150 for that horse. On consulting my records I find I was mistaken.

I paid only $100 for him. I told you my profit was $50, therefore, I'm sending you $50 to make the deal right."

Although this dealer was merely doing business in harmony with his principles, and expected no special reward for having sent that $50 check, the farmer who got the check was so pleased that he told the story over and over and it proved to be the best advertisement the dealer received. He could not have bought better advertising for a hundred $50 notes used in any other way.

Card-playing

175. Card-playing can be expensive, but so is any game where you hold hands.

176. A Londoner spoke up saying, "In England we play a game called Rugby, in which there is a lot of shin kicking."

"Well," said the American, "we play it over here too, but we call it bridge."

177. A Texan got into a poker game with some Englishmen. The cards were dealt and the Englishman to his right bet "One pound."

Looking at the four aces in his own hand, the Texan said, "Ah don't know how you-all count your money, but ah'll raise you a ton."

178. FIRST MEMBER: "This new member you fellows have been playing poker with must be English."

SECOND MEMBER: "Why do you say that?"

FIRST MEMBER: "Well, it's the way he drops his H's."

SECOND MEMBER: "He drops his vowels, too. I've got more than a dozen of his I.O.U.'s."

179. A meek little fellow asked, "Did you say that a good poker player could hold any kind of executive job?"

"That's right," answered the lecturer. "Does that raise a question in your mind?"

"Yes," was the reply. "What would a good player want with a job."

180. The dealer, in a game of bridge, dealt himself thirteen hearts but failed to make his grand slam because of the following circumstances:

The second player led the deuce of clubs and the dealer's partner played the ace of clubs. The third man followed suit and then the dealer having all the hearts of necessity played one—and his partner shot him!

181. The bridge expert was paired with a woman whose game was on the dufferish side. After the woman had butchered one hand inexcusably, the expert fixed her with an icy glare.

"When did you learn to play bridge, madam?" he asked. "And don't tell me this afternoon. I want to know what time this afternoon."

182. The poker game went on all night in the usual atmosphere of smoke and all that. About eight o'clock in the morning, one of the players fell off his chair onto the floor . . . dead.

"Hey, he's dead!" said one of the players. "What are we going to do now?"

The host took his cigar out of his mouth and said: "Take out the deuces and fours."

183. The British movie producer, Sir Alexander Korda, who was knighted for his artistic achievements, won heavily in a poker game with a rich man. Next day the man sent him a check written in red ink with a note of explanation. "Dear Alexander," it said, "as you see, I've written the check with my heart's blood."

Shortly thereafter the two men played another poker game and this time it was Sir Alexander who lost heavily. The next morning he too sent his opponent of the night before a check—written in blue ink—to cover his losses. With it went a little note: "I, too, have written the check with the blood of my heart. But please note the difference in color. Yours, Sir Alexander Korda."

184. A school teacher who was planning a trip to Europe decided to budget $100 to find out how those card sharks

he had read about operated. Once on board a liner he lounged around the recreation salon waiting for someone to ask him to play cards. It looked like his experiment would be a failure until next to the last night before landing abroad. Then a well-dressed, suave gentleman asked him if he would like to play a little bridge for small stakes. The teacher eagerly agreed and the other man went to find two more players. That first night the teacher won $23.00.

The next night he was delighted when the suave gentleman approached him and suggested that they play again. True to formula, he also suggested that they double the stakes since this was the last night on board. But after this second night of play, the teacher counted another $48.00 in winnings.

The next morning he was still puzzled about it as he strolled along the deck. Then his keen ears caught the low voice of one woman speaking to another. "There goes that slick card sharp who took my husband for nearly $75.00."

Career

185. "How did you happen to become a chiropodist?"

"Oh, I was always at the foot of my class at school, so I just naturally drifted into this profession."

186. Dressed in cap and gown on graduation day, a young man handed his diploma to his father with this remark:

"Well, I finished law school to please you and mom. Now I'm going to become a motor-cycle cop like I've been saying since I was six."

Cause and effect

187. There's a revolutionary new vanishing cream deodorant. You put it on and the odor remains, but you disappear and no one knows where the smell is coming from.

188. "I've just heard about your husband being in the hospital," said the neighbor sympathetically. "What happened?"

"It's his knee," replied the wife. "I found a blonde on it."

189. "Two men were senior to me," said the lecturer. "One was dismissed for drunkenness, alcohol led the other into crime; and I am now head of the department. What has raised me to this high position, I ask you?"

"Drink!" roared the enthusiastic audience.

190. "How did you get that beautiful black eye?" Mimi asked Fifi.

"My husband," Fifi replied glumly.

"But," Mimi insisted, "I thought your husband was out of town."

"That's what I thought, too," said Fifi.

191. The wedding ceremony was at an end. The bride dabbed at her pretty eyes with a filmy handkerchief. One of the bridesmaids was also affected to tears. "Why do you weep?" asked a gentleman guest. "It's not your wedding."

The girl looked at him scornfully. "That's the reason!" she snapped.

192. A man living on the border between Wisconsin and Minnesota was puzzled for years about which state he lived in. Finally he got a surveyor to make a special survey.

"You live," decided the surveyor, "in Wisconsin."

The man tossed his hat into the air. "Hooray," he cried. "No more of those cold Minnesota winters!"

193. For eight days and nights Mr. Jones had been unable to sleep. All kinds of medicine had had no effect whatever, and in desperation the Jones family summoned a renowned hypnotist. He fastened a beady eye on Mr. Jones and chanted, "You are asleep, Mr. Jones! The

shadows are closing about you. Soft music is lulling your senses. You are asleep! You are asleep!"

The anxious family looked at the ailing man—and sure enough he was asleep. "You're a miracle worker," the grateful son told the hypnotist—and paid a substantial sum. The hypnotist departed in triumph. As the outside door closed, Mr. Jones opened one eye. "Say," he demanded, "is that lunatic gone yet?"

194. Lawrence Kimpton, Chancellor of the University of Chicago, once told an audience of the time he was playing host to a visiting foreign scientist. In preparation for the day when they would be visiting the State of New York and seeing the great Niagara Falls, Chancellor Kimpton took the time to acquire a mass of facts and data concerning the great natural phenomenon and was all prepared to entertain and amaze his guest with interesting and unusual information.

Approaching the scene and watching the great cascade, the Chancellor remarked to his guest:

"Do you realize that approximately 4,534,288 gallons of water go over those falls every minute?"

"Sure, and what's to prevent it?" was the visiting scientist's casual reply.

195. Pascal calls attention to the way in which a little thing may have great consequences, saying that causes so trivial that they can scarcely be recognized move all mankind. "The nose of Cleopatra—if it had been shorter, the history of the world would have been changed."

If Mark Antony had not been enslaved by Cleopatra's beauty, he might not have lost the battle of Actium and might have become the founder of the Roman Empire.

Perhaps the most whimsical suggestion of all is to the effect that the stubborn resistance of the British army was due to the prevalence of spinsterhood in Great Britain. The explanation of this paradox is to be found in this sequence: The British soldier is nourished on beef, and the quality of the beef is due to an abundance of

clover, which needs to be fertilized by bees. But bees cannot multiply and live unless they are protected against the field mice. The field mice can be kept down only if there are cats enough to catch them and cats are the favorites of the frequent old maids in England. These lonely virgins keep pets who prevent the mice from destroying the bees, so clover flourishes luxuriantly and the cattle wax fat to supply the soldiers of the queen with their strengthening rations.

Character

196. A man in Boston was once very angry about an article which defamed his character. He went to Dr. Everett and asked his advise as to what he should do about it.

"Nothing," said Dr. Everett. "Half the people who got the paper never saw the article. Half who read it did not understand it. Half who did understand it did not believe it. Half of those who believed it were of no importance anyway."

197. Jonathan Smithers was a great fellow to whittle. A promising young man on a neighboring farm fell in love with his comely daughter and asked for her hand in marriage. To relieve his nervousness, the anxious suitor whittled while Farmer Smithers watched. The stick was finally whittled entirely away.

"Young man," said Jonathan, "had you made something out of that stick—just anything—you could have had my daughter; but you whittled it entirely away. Your property will go like that stick, bit by bit, until it is all gone. You have revealed your character—you can't have my daughter."

Childbirth

198. A woman rang up her insurance company and said she wanted to change the terms of her insurance policy. "I've just had twins," she informed the manager.

The insurance manager had difficulty in hearing her, and asked: "Will you repeat that again, please?"

She shot back emphatically: "Not if I can help it!"

199. Some young interns at a hospital were discussing theories about pre-natal influence.

"Obviously, there's no such thing," scoffed one. "It's been disproved time and time again. For example, before I was born, my mother broke a huge batch of phonograph records. But it's never bothered me . . . never bothered me . . . never bothered me. . ."

200. A fact-finding youngster faced his mother one day, saying: "Didn't you tell me the stork brought me?"

"Why, yes, dear."

"And I weighed eight pounds?" "U'uh, yes."

"Well for your information," said the boy, "the stork hasn't the *wing-spread* to carry an eight-pound load!"

201. Jackie, six, was visiting his mother and his new sister at the hospital and, getting bored, wandered into the next ward to talk to an elderly woman patient.

"How long have you been here?"

"Oh, about six weeks."

"Can I see your baby?"

"I'm afraid I don't have one."

"My, but you're slow," said Jackie. "My mother's only been here two days and she's got one already."

202. Two six-year-olds were having a discussion. Its content was so startling that the mother of one of them stayed to eavesdrop.

"You know," said Cynthia, "you have to have a man to have a baby."

"You do!" exclaimed Amanda. "Why?"

"Well," said Cynthia, "somebody has to pay for everything."

Christmas

203. On Christmas Eve, Santa carries the bag. After Christmas, dad is left holding it.

204. The Christmas cigar a man really appreciates is the one that burns a hole in his Christmas tie.

205. A foreign diplomat once offered this Independence Day toast to the United States: "Let me congratulate you on the second greatest date in history." When friends asked him what he considered to be the greatest date in history, he replied: "December 25, for had there been no Christmas, there would never have been a Fourth of July."

206. The small girl had spent the morning watching her mother do her Christmas shopping. Finally, she found herself in a big chair beside the department-store Santa Claus, telling him her wishes. "—and a big doll and a doll buggy and a doll house—" she finished the long list. Then, sliding from the chair and walking away, she suddenly turned back a pace, and called, "And charge it, Santa Claus!"

Church attendance

207. TEACHER: "When does your daddy go to church?"
PUPIL: "Not until he absolutely has to."

208. Churches should all be air conditioned; it is unhealthy for people to sleep in a stuffy room.

209. Some people must think the Sunday service is like a convention; many families just send one delegate.

210. The Vicar asked little Nellie the difference between an audience and a congregation. "An audience listens; a congregation doesn't."

211. A minister, out driving, passed a track where a horse race was in progress. His six-year-old son gazed from the window at the crowded stadium. "Oh, Daddy," he exclaimed, "all the pews are filled!"

212. A preacher looked over his packed church (once a year) on Easter Sunday. Then he said: "Since I won't be seeing many of you again until next Easter, may I take this occasion to wish you a Merry Christmas?"

213. The retiring usher was instructing his youthful successor in the details of his office. "And remember, my boy, that we have nothing but good, kind Christians in this church—until you try to put someone else in their pew."

214. "Just go out there and give your sermon with fire and determination. You're not afraid of the congregation, are you?"

"Oh, no," smiled the vicar. "The choir and I have them outnumbered."

215. Dad criticized the sermon, Mother thought the organist made a lot of mistakes. Sister didn't like the choir's singing. But they all shut up when Billy chipped in with the remark: "I think it was a darn good show for a dime."

216. The pastor, shaking hands with worshippers leaving the church, greeted a pretty girl who was not a regular member, with: "And where do you live?"

She gave him an appraising look and said, "I already got a fella!"

217. It was one of the practices of Monsignor John O'Connor (G. K. Chesterton's "Father Brown") to have late-comers to Mass given a slip of white paper as they came in. When he reached the notices he asked all those who had been given slips of white paper to hold them up. Then he commented dryly: "You were all late."

218. Two ladies, dressed to the hilt in their Easter finery, were making slow progress in the crowd headed for the entrance to the church. Finally one of them burst out impatiently, "Now wouldn't you think that these people who do nothing but go to church Sunday after Sunday would stay home on Easter and leave room for the rest of us!"

219. A Saturday night backslider suddenly began attending church faithfully on Sunday mornings. The pastor was highly gratified and told him, "How wonderful it

makes me feel to see you at services with your good wife!"

"Well, Parson," said the prodigal, "it's a matter of choice—I'd rather hear your sermon than hers."

220. A rich old couple were sitting in church and the collection plate was approaching. In a hoarse whisper she said to him: "Don't put in more than a quarter."

"Listen," he said. "Andrew Carnegie gave $4 million for his seat in heaven. John D. Rockefeller gave $2 million for his. Where in hell do you think I'm gonna sit for a quarter?"

221. American evangelist Billy Graham tells the amusing story of a fire which broke out in a small-town church.

When the fire brigade, siren wailing, arrived on the spot the minister recognized one of the men. "Hello, there, Jim—I haven't seen you in church for a long time," he chided.

"Well," answered the sweating man, struggling with the hose, "there hasn't been a fire in church for a long time."

222. A family vacationing for a month in a resort area decided that they would go to church every Sunday. For some reason they were a little disappointed the first week. They had a feeling that some of the people were a little bit aloof, not their kind. When they tried another church the second Sunday, they arrived a few minutes late. As they walked in the minister and the congregation were reading aloud: "We have left undone those things that we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done." The vacation visitor nudged his wife and whispered, "That's us. We're in the right crowd this Sunday."

223. A clergyman once went into the home of one of his members who had boldly declared that he could find God on the Sabbath day as well in his garden as he could attending services in his church. The preacher sat in silence with his friend before the open fireplace. The man knew that his pastor had come to take him to task for

his boastful spirit. The preacher knew that he was expected to give a deserved rebuke. Yet both remained silent.

At last the preacher arose from the chair and went to the fireplace. Taking the tongs, he lifted a single coal from the embers and placed it alone on the hearth. He waited in silence as the single coal quickly burned into a black ash—while the fire in the fireplace continued to burn brightly.

"You need not say a word," said the man of the house. "I know what you mean. I cannot keep the fire of faith burning alone. I'll be in my place at church next Sunday."

Church collections

224. It was Monday morning and the minister was greatly shocked when he unexpectedly came upon his wife with her hand in the coins gathered during the Sunday church collection.

"Martha, dear, what are you doing?" he exclaimed.

"What do you think I'm doing?" she replied, annoyed. I'm looking for a button to sew on your coat."

225. A senator was arguing in the Idaho legislature in favor of a bill legalizing the operation of slot machines. He was interrupted by a fellow senator, who asked:

"Would you advocate putting a slot machine in your church?"

The senator replied: "I would just as soon, because there are some people who couldn't be pried out of a dime with a crowbar, but they might take a chance on a slot machine."

Club membership

226. "My dad is an Eagle, a Moose, an Elk and a Lion," boasted one youngster.

"Yeah?" gasped his wondering companion, "how much does it cost to see him?"

227. Whistler once sent a flippant reply to his club secretary's reminder that he hadn't paid his dues. The secretary sent him the following note: "Dear Mr. Whistler: It is not a Nocturne in Purple or a Symphony in Blue and Grey we are after, but merely an arrangement in Gold and Silver." The money was sent without comment.

228. One of the big service clubs limited its members to one from each business or profession. It already had a member filling the classification "Religion—Protestant" when a Methodist bishop moved to town. He had been a member of the same organization in another city, and his friends were eager to get him into the local club. They wound up by reclassifying their present member under the heading "Religion—Retail" and taking in the bishop under "Religion—Wholesale."

College

229. FRESHMAN (the morning after the Junior Prom): "I had an awful nightmare last night."

SOPHOMORE: "Yes, I saw you with her."

230. A survey of college students reveals that only 11 per cent have early marriage in mind. The other 89 per cent are studying for a bachelor's degree.

231. A man hired a young man and told him, "Now your first job will be to sweep out the office." "But, I'm a college graduate!" protested the youth. "Well, then," said the boss, "hand me the broom. I'll show you how."

232. A stranger in town stopped to look over a campus. Meeting a student, he asked, "What's the name of this school?"

"Sorry, sir," said the boy politely. "I'm just a football player here."

233. "Dear Mom and Dad," a young college student wrote home to his family. "I haven't heard from you in nearly a month. Please send a check so I'll know you're all right."

234. Asked on an examination, to make a distinction between the major and the minor prophets, a theological student came up with the following answer:

"Far be it from me to make any distinction between two such eminent groups."

235. A college student arrived at the Pearly Gates where St. Peter asked him who he was. When told he was an Arts student, St. Peter said, "Go to the Devil."

Some time later an Agriculture student arrived, and upon explaining his vocation was told to go to Hades. The third student arrived at the Pearly Gates with his slide rule. When asked who he was, he replied, "I'm an engineer," whereupon St. Peter said, "Come in, son, you've been through Hell already."

236. The college professor had gone to the campus pool for a swim. He was standing there, in his bathing suit, about to jump in, when a coed who had been toying with a camera accidentally dropped it into the pool. There were several young fellows in swimming, but she called on the elderly professor to retrieve it for her.

"I'll be glad to dive for it," he replied, "but why haven't you asked one of these young fellows who are so much quicker?"

The young lady looked at him coyly and said, "Professor, you don't remember me, but I'm in that large class of yours in statistics, and honestly, you can go down deeper, and stay down longer, and come up drier than anyone I know."

Common sense

237. Among the guests at a reception was a distinguished man of letters. He was grave and somewhat taciturn. One of the ladies present suggested to the hostess that he seemed to be out of place at such a party.

"Yes," replied the hostess with a bright smile, "he can't talk anything but sense."

Communism

238. A Russian was convicted by a Soviet court of having called the minister of culture a fool: He got 20 years—5 for slander and 15 years for revealing a state secret.

239. "The essence of communism," said one man theorizing with another, "is to divide up with your neighbor."

"Not at all," said the other, who was a communist. "The essence of communism is to make your neighbor divide up with you."

240. The commissar presiding over the court glared down at the first defendant. "What is the charge?" he growled to the prosecutor. "His factory showed a profit." "Five years for exploiting the masses! Now, what is this man's crime?" "His factory showed a loss." "Ten years for robbing the state!" the commissar thundered. "And the next?" "His factory broke even." The commissar pondered a moment. Then his face brightened. "Fifteen years for delaying the course of Soviet justice."

241. There is a story of a salesman trying to sell radio sets in Russia. He explained to a peasant that with this set in his home, he could listen to what was being said in Moscow. "Yes," said the peasant, "but haven't you something so that the people in Moscow can listen to what we are saying?"

This story probably apocryphal, illustrates the need in every human heart to register his opinion; the hunger to be heard.

242. A communist leader having died and reached his eventual destination, was surprised to observe two gates. One was labeled "Communist Hell," the other "Capitalist Hell."

Approaching the devil who served as registration clerk, he said, "Pardon me, but I'm new here. How does a sinner suffer in Communist Hell?"

Without looking up the devil replied, "He's roasted on a spit over burning coals."

"And in Capitalist Hell?"

"Oh, they too are roasted on a spit over burning coals."

"Ah," said the sinner. "But if there is no difference in the punishment, why do I observe so many trying to get into Communist Hell, while the Capitalist Hell is practically deserted?"

"Who said there's no difference?" inquired the devil. "In Communist Hell one week there's no delivery of coal. Another week the furnace is out of order. Next week the coal-handler is drunk. So, believe me, comrade, Communist Hell is much better!"

243. "What kind of telephone is that on your desk?" a visitor is reported to have asked the premier of a Russian satellite state. "There's an earpiece, but no mouthpiece."

"If you must know," said the premier sadly, "that's our direct line to the Kremlin."

244. Two strangers were admiring a new automobile on a street in Budapest.

"What a beauty," said one. "Those Russians really know how to build a fine car!"

"That car's not Russian," corrected the other. "Don't you know an American car when you see it?"

"Certainly," replied the first observer, "but I don't know you."

245. There's a very popular anecdote (among Russians) about little Ivan being asked by the teacher to describe America.

"America," said little Ivan, "is the country where the workers are being exploited by the capitalists and are starving to death."

"Excellent," said the teacher. "Now tell us the chief aims of the new Seven-Year Plan."

"To catch up with America," replied Ivan.

Competition

246. SIGN ON BUTCHER SHOP IN LONDON: "We make sausage for Queen Elizabeth II."

SIGN ON RIVAL SHOP ACROSS THE STREET: "God Save the Queen!"

247. The shopkeeper decided to sell $17 electric shavers for $15 as a loss-leader to bring new customers into his store. The day of the sale a big sign went up in the window of his competitor across the street: We repair $15 electric shavers."

248. An Englishman once migrated to New York where he set himself up in business and put a sign above the door of his establishment reading "Established 1875" and rather prided himself upon the antiquity of his organization. The next day his American rival across the street, burlesqued his sign by putting up his own sign which read as follows: "Established Yesterday. No Old Goods on Hand."

Compromise

249. The doctor was very sympathetic with the distraught father whose heart had been set on a boy.

"Oh, it's all right," he assured the doctor. "If I couldn't have a boy my second choice was a girl."

250. When Prime Minister Harold Macmillan was British Resident Minister in Algeria during World War II, he was called upon to settle a dispute between British and American officers in the Allied mess. The Americans wanted drinks served before meals, the British after.

Macmillan's solution was worthy of Solomon: "Henceforth, we will all drink before meals in deference to the Americans, and we will all drink after dinner in deference to the British."

251. A small boy was sitting disconsolately on the curb watching a little friend approach leading a puppy on the

end of a piece of rope. When the boy finally arrived, the other youngster said:

"I have wanted a dog for a long time, but my mother won't let me have one."

"You probably don't use the right strategy," replied the other.

"Strategy—what's that?"

"Well," was the reply, "you don't ask her for a dog. You ask her for a baby brother—then she'll be glad to settle for a dog."

Conceit

252. It isn't tying himself to one woman that a man dreads when he thinks of marrying—it's separating himself from all the others.

253. "Why are you looking so sorrowful, Charlie?"

"Mollie has rejected me."

"Oh, cheer up—there's plenty of nice girls left."

"It's not that, but I can't help feeling sorry for the poor girl."

254. When Napoleon visited the members of the French Academy, one of the scientists asked him, "Who do you think, Sire, was the greatest military leader in history?"

"Well," Napoleon said, "I should say that Julius Caesar was the second greatest!"

255. "John," said the woman to her slightly flushed husband as they left a large cocktail soiree where he had been the life of the party, "did anyone ever tell you how fascinating—how romantic—how HANDSOME you are?"

The man looked at his wife, pleased. "Why, no, dear, I don't think anyone ever did."

"Well," she snapped, "then where did you ever get the idea."

256. At a certain church in an Alabama town it is the invariable custom of the pastor to kiss the bride after the ceremony. Now, one young woman who was about

to be married in his church did not relish the prospect and instructed her prospective husband to advise the minister that she did not wish him to kiss her. The bridegroom obeyed the instructions given.

When the young man returned she asked: "Frank, did you tell the clergyman that I did not wish him to kiss me?"

"I did, Marie."

"And what did he say?"

"Why, he said that in that case he would charge only half the usual fee."

Confidence

257. LADY: "How could you swindle people who trusted you?"

TRAMP: "Lady, people who don't trust you can't be swindled."

258. JUDGE: "You committed this theft alone?"

CULPRIT: "Yes, your Honor. You can't trust anyone these days."

259. The new bank teller was counting packets of bills, making ready for his window to open. He counted his pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters and half dollars. He broke open a $100 packet of one dollar bills, and began to count. When his count reached 57, he placed the entire packet in the drawer, and commented to a co-worker: "Oh, well, if it's right that far, it's probably right all the way."

260. George M. Humphrey took Robert B. Anderson, the incoming Treasury Secretary, to the Bureau of Printing and Engraving to show him where money is made.

While there, they saw the printers rolling off some of the first sheets of bills with Mr. Anderson's signature. These were also the first bills to bear the inscription, "In God We Trust."

Mr. Anderson commented: "This is pretty rugged. I no sooner take office than there is an expression of lack of confidence."

Contentment

261. For years, Grandpa had been stubborn and crabbed. No one could please him. Then overnight, he changed. Gentleness and optimism twinkled about him. "Grandpa," he was asked, "what caused you to change so suddenly?"

"Well, sir," the old man replied, "I've been striving all my life for a contented mind. It's done no good, so I've decided to be contented without it."

Cook—Cooking

262. MINISTER: "Do you say prayers before eating?"

LITTLE BOY: "Don't have to. Mom's a good cook."

263. The high school girl was telling her family about her home economics class. "Do they let you eat what you cook?" her mother asked.

"Let us?" the girl answered. "They make us!"

Cooperation

264. Bright young thing to oarsman after his crew had lost the big race: "Never mind, dear, you were wonderful. You rowed faster than anyone in the boat!"

265. Oliver Wendell Holmes was fond of telling the story that the people of the world decided to shout "Boo!" all at once at a specified moment, so that the voice of the inhabitants of the earth might be heard in the moon. When the time came for this mighty ejaculation, the people were so eager to hear the great noise that they failed to contribute their "Boos," and the great occasion passed as the most silent moment since creation.

266. The scene was a crowded bus in New York. The driver, harassed by passengers jammed in the front of the bus, alternated between requesting and ordering his riders to move to the rear, all to no avail. Finally, in desperation, he drew up to the curb in front of the United Nations, stopped the bus, and stood up. Pointing dramatically to the towering glass building that houses the U.N., he said, "If we can't get together on this bus, how can we expect those fellows in there to get together and help keep us out of war?" Whereupon the crowd moved to the rear and the bus went on.

267. The instructor drew a chalk-line on the blackboard and turned to his psychology class. "I'm going to ask each of you to estimate the length of that line." Rapidly he polled the class. Estimates ranged from fifty-three inches to eighty-four inches. The instructor put them all down. Then he totaled them and divided the result by the number of students in the class. The average estimate, he announced, was sixty-one and one-eighth inches, although no one had given that exact figure.

Then he measured the line. It was sixty-one and one-fourth inches long. It's a practical example of the old saying that "two heads are better than one."

Credit

268. A customer who ate a meal at a restaurant, but unexpectedly found himself short of funds to pay for it, was told: "That's perfectly all right; we'll jot down your name on the wall and you can pay us whenever you come back."

"That won't do," objected the customer; "everybody will see my name on your wall."

"Don't worry about that," he was assured. "Your overcoat will be hanging right over it."

269. A bargain-hunting city man wanted some wood for his weekend house in the country. He demanded hard wood in his uppish manner.

The native from whom he sought to buy it was sure the city man didn't know hard wood from soft wood. He sold him a load of soft wood at a high price.

"Do yer mean to say you hed the nerve ter ask that feller $15 a cord fer birch?" he was asked by another native.

"Yep, I did," he answered in a righteous tone, "and ef I'd known he wa'nt goin' ter pay me, I'd 'v asked him fer $18."

270. The fussy customer had given the tailor much cause for anguish during the measurement for his suit. Nothing had pleased him: first he could not find a pattern he liked, and afterward he wanted several details changed to please his taste.

As the tailor held his jacket when the interview was over, the customer remarked nonchalantly: "By the way, I won't be able to pay you for a couple of months."

"That's all right—don't let it worry you," said the tailor.

"Thanks," remarked the customer as he opened the door to leave. "When will my suit be ready?"

"In a couple of months, sir," replied the tailor calmly.

Crime—Punishment

271. "Your Honor," the lawyer pleaded, "don't you think the sentence is a little severe? My client just completed a good long term."

"The sentence stands," the judge said. "One good term deserves another."

272. An irate visitor dashed up to the beekeeper and complained: "One of your bees stung me and I want you to do something about it." The beekeeper answered soothingly: "Sure, lady, you just show me which one it was and I'll punish it."

273. FIRST CITIZEN: "They will try him first, and sentence him afterwards, will they not, neighbor Anthony?"

SECOND CITIZEN: "Nay, for he might 'scape his punishment then; but they will condemn him first so that he gets his deserts, and give him trial afterwards so that no injustice is done."

274. In the dark of night two safe-breakers entered a bank. One approached the safe, sat down on the floor, took off his shoes and socks, and started to turn the dial with his toes.

"Whatcha doin' that for?" said his pal. "Let's open the thing up and get out of here."

"Naw, it'll only take a minute longer and we'll drive them fingerprint experts nuts."

275. A New Yorker was charged with striking a woman fellow passenger in a double-decker bus. The magistrate asked him what excuse he could offer.

"Well, sir, it was like this," replied the culprit. "She sat on the seat beside me on the lower deck of the bus. Then she opened her bag, took out her purse, closed her bag, opened her purse, took out a dime, closed her purse, opened her bag, put back the purse, and closed her bag. Then she noticed the conductor was going upstairs, so she opened her bag, took out her purse, closed her bag, opened her purse, put in her dime, closed her purse, opened her bag, put in her purse, and closed her bag. Then she saw the conductor coming down the stairs, so she opened her bag, took out her purse, closed her bag, opened her purse, took out a dime, and closed her—"

The magistrate could bear it no longer.

"Stop!" he cried, "you'll drive me crazy!"

"That's just what happened to me, sir," said the man.

Criticism

276. Two men were knocking another.

"To me," said one, "he's a pain in the neck."

"Funny," said the other, "I had a much lower opinion of him."

277. Alfred Hertz, the conductor, was once confronted by a lady after a concert who gushed, "Wasn't that modern quarter perfectly awful?" Dr. Hertz answered, "Not being an amateur, I can't tell quite so quickly!"

278. "There was a custom in ancient China that everyone who wished to criticize the government had the right to memorialize the emperor, provided he followed that up by committing suicide. Very great respect was paid to his words, and no ulterior motives were assigned. That seems to me to have been, from many points of view, a wise custom, but I certainly would be the last to suggest that it should be made retroactive," said Winston Churchill.

279. A judge who was on circuit at a certain town was always sure of being annoyed by some sneering remarks from a conceited lawyer. After one such occasion, someone asked the judge at dinner, why he didn't come down strong on the fellow. The judge dropped his knife and fork, placed his chin on his hands, and his elbows on the table as he gave emphasis to his story: "Up in our town," he said, "there lives a widow who has a dog which, whenever the moon shines, goes and barks and barks at it all night." Stopping short he quietly began eating again. One of the company asked, "Well, Judge, what about the dog and the moon?" "Oh, the moon kept on shining," he said.

280. It was a hotly-contested baseball game between the teams of two county seat towns not exactly noted for their friendliness and neighborly affection. Anticipating a lively scrimmage, a traveling salesman decided to attend. He was surprised to observe no umpire in the usual position. Finally, he located an individual up in the grandstand, calling the balls and strikes. This procedure was so unusual that he ventured to inquire:

"Well you see," explained the officiating gentleman, "the spectators used to beef so about my decisions, I thought if folks up in the grandstand could see every play

so darned well, maybe I'd better come up here and do my umpiring."

281. A newspaper columnist was constantly called upon to give an opinion about a friend's television show.

All was well when the show was good, but when things didn't go so well, the newspaperman was on the spot. How could he remain honest and not ruffle his sensitive friend?

He found a formula that solved the problem. After each show, he slapped him on the back and declared: "Joe, you did it again!"

Curiosity

282. A local busybody, unable to contain her curiosity any longer, asked an expectant mother point-blank whether she was going to have a baby. "Oh, goodness, no," the young woman said pleasantly. "I'm just carrying this for a friend."

283. A frustrated motorist had been trying to pass a huge truck for many miles. Every time he tried to go around the truck, the driver increased his speed. Finally, at a stop sign, the motorist pulled alongside the truck driver's window and gazed up at him. "Well?" growled the driver.

"Nothing important," was the reply. "I know what you are . . . I just wanted to see what one looks like."

284. Before the start of a particularly lurid French trial, the judge turned to the women spectators who packed the courtroom: "Perhaps you are not acquainted with the type of case to be tried today. Some things will be said which are the kind a respectable woman should not hear. In view of this, will all the respectable women please leave the courtroom?" Not a woman moved.

After a moment, the judge turned to an usher: "Now that all the respectable women have left, will you show the remaining women out?"

Dancing

285. Any man who can keep his wife guessing is probably dancing with her.

286. The people who are most likely to make ends meet are those on a crowded dance floor.

287. COED: "What's the difference between dancing and marching?"

SOPH: "I don't know."

COED: "That's what I thought. Let's sit down."

288. The young thing was showing her grandfather some of the newer dance routines.

"I'll bet you never saw any dancing like this back in the nineties, eh, Grandpa?"

"Once—then the place was raided," was the tart answer.

289. The country dance floor was jammed to the four walls and, after one number, a gallant youth said to a young lady beside him. "Thanks so much for the dance!"

"Dance? Dance?" she queried aghast. "Why, I was just pushing through the crowd to reach the refreshment stand."

290. Asked what he did for recreation, if and when he got to town, one of those long, lean Texas cowboys reluctantly confessed, "I most always go dancin' if there is one."

"Why, nobody'd guess you knew how to dance," the questioner exclaimed in surprise.

"Heck I can't dance a lick," the cowhand admitted, "but boy, I sure like to hold 'em while they do!"

Debtor—Creditor

291. It's all right to save money, but too many are trying to save it from people they owe it to.

292. The bravest man I ever knew was the fellow who took a taxi to the bankruptcy court and invited the driver in as a creditor.

293. "No," said the wealthy Baron Rothschild to a man who wanted to borrow money from him. "But this I will do for you. I will walk arm in arm with you across the floor of the Exchange."

294. TRADESMAN: "Look here, you've been owing me this bill for a year. I'll meet you half way. I'm ready to forget half of what you owe me."

AGREEABLE CUSTOMER: "Fine! I'll meet you. I'll forget the other half."

295. A man asked his friend for a $1,000 loan. "I need it for a dowry for my daughter. I promised the groom-to-be $2,000," he explained, "and I only got $1,000." Said the friend, "Why not give the groom your thousand now and tell him you'll give the other grand later?" Said the father, "The thousand for later I got; it's the thousand for now that I need."

296. A lumber dealer had tried for many years to figure out a way to collect long overdue accounts without coming right out and saying "pay or else." Finally he hit upon the following idea which is reported to have worked rather well. In letters which he sent out with requests for payment of accounts over six months old, he wrote:

"It has been said that a man who squeezes a dollar never squeezes his wife. In looking over your account, it has occurred to us that your wife is not getting the attention she deserves!"

297. A Scottish counsel met his match in a witness of his own nationality. The case concerned a suit of clothes. Counsel argued that his client was entitled to three months in which to pay his bill.

"Now, sir," said counsel to the witness, "had I ordered the suit instead of my client, would you have summoned me to court?"

"No," was the reply.

"And why not, pray?" asked counsel with a triumphant smile.

"Well, because, you see I should have wanted cash down from you."

298. A man sat at a bar all evening drinking steadily. When he got his bill, it was over $10, and he told the bartender that he had no money. At first the bartender thought this is a drunk's idea of a joke; when he was convinced that the customer really had no money he threatened to call the police. "What's the fine for hitting a man," the customer inquired suddenly. "Twenty bucks or three days, usually," the bartender answered, "but what's that got to do with your bill? You want to hit *me?*" "No, you hit me and we'll split the change."

299. Several years back, when he was in financial trouble, Orson Welles received a telegram from one of his creditors requesting payment of an overdue bill. Welles put him off with the assurance that payment would soon be made. Months passed and no check was forthcoming. Finally, the creditor sent Welles a wire into which a note of desperation had crept.

"How shall I get along while I am waiting for the money?" it read.

By return wire came Welles' reply.

"Live simply."

300. Smith was having trouble collecting his bill from Jones. Jones was cooperative but couldn't pay. After the tenth call he said: "Smith, you know I mean well by you, and to prove it, I'll make you a preferred creditor.

Smith went home somewhat relieved but during the night doubts began to run through his mind. The next morning he called up Jones and said, "Just what do you mean by making me a preferred creditor?"

"Well," replied Jones, "you know that you won't get anything, while all my other creditors won't know it for sixty days."

301. A department store received the following letter from a couple to whom its billing department had written, requesting payment of a long overdue bill:

"Gentlemen: We have received your letter of the 23rd and would like you to know we are dividing our creditors into three groups:

"1. Those who will be paid promptly.

"2. Those who will be paid sometime.

"3. Those who will never be paid.

"You will be happy to know that due to the friendly tone of your letter, we have promoted you from Group 3 to Group 2."

Deference

302. An American contractor once held up a half-million dollar job until a robin had built a nest on the site and could hatch out her eggs. He explained: "I'm no bird lover. I just respect a fellow contractor."

303. To put it mildly, Pat wasn't what you would call an energetic worker. One day the parish priest was passing by the cottage and noticed the sorry state of Pat's garden.

"Pat," said he reprovingly, "that's a mighty poor garden you have there."

"It is indeed, Father," said Pat.

"And what happened to it?"

"Well, Father," said Pat, lazily scratching an ear, "it was this way. I left it to God, and God left it to me, and between us we spoiled it."

Dentist—Dentistry

304. A group of amateur cave explorers entered a huge cavern. "You know," remarked one, "this is something of a postman's holiday for me."

"How come?" he was asked.

"I'm a dentist."

305. An Irishman with one side of his face badly swollen stepped into the dentist's office: "I want you to see what's the matter with my tooth."

The doctor examined the offending molar and proceeded to explain:

"The nerve is dead; that's what's the matter."

"Then, be the powers!" exclaimed the Irishman, "the other teeth must be holdin' a wake over it."

Determination

306. They told him, by golly, it couldn't be done:
With a smile he went right to it
And tackled the thing that couldn't be done
And, by golly, he couldn't do it!

307. One day the great scientist Faraday, while working in his laboratory dropped a very small screw on the floor. Nightfall came and his search for it was still unrewarded. A friend remonstrated with him in the words, "You don't really need to find that screw tonight." To which Mr. Faraday replied, "No, but it is very important that I finish what I started out to accomplish."

Diagnosis

308. PRETTY GIRL TO DINNER COMPANION: "You are beginning to look ill. I hope it wasn't something I ate."

309. When a man called a veterinarian in a nearby town the operator asked, "Is this a personal call?"

"Of course not!" snapped the caller. "It's my dog that's sick."

310. "Does the doctor think your wife is going to die?"

"If I only knew."

"But didn't he tell you at least something about her chances?"

"He said to prepare for the worst, and I'm damned if he hasn't got me guessing!"

Dilemma

311. Consider the predicament of the young man who has complimented his girl friend to the point where she has become conceited. If he stops, she will think he no longer loves her. If he continues, she will begin to believe she is too good for him.

312. Brown was telling his guests about how he had brought up one of his sons to be a doctor and the other a lawyer. "You must be very proud," murmured one of the guests politely.

"Right now, it looks as if it might break up the family," replied Brown, shaking his head sadly. "I got hit by a car a while ago. My son, the doctor, wants to cure me, but my son, the lawyer, wants me to act crippled so he can sue for damages."

313. The defendant was charged with larceny and his lawyer decided to let him take the witness stand in his own defense.

"Sam, if you tell a lie, you know what will happen, I suppose?" inquired the judge.

"Yes, sir," replied Sam. "I'll go to Hades and burn a long time."

"Quite right," declared the judge. "And do you know what will happen to you if you tell the truth?"

"I sure do, sir," said Sam. "We'll lose the case."

Disappointment

314. There are two things some people never seem to get—all they want and all they deserve.

Discouragement

315. A certain film producer was well known for always belittling any suggestion from his associates. One day he was taken ill and left the set. Hardly had he gone when someone hung up a sign:

"In case of fire, do not call the fire brigade. Just call our producer and he'll throw a wet blanket on it."

316. The great Eddie Stinson, back in 1916, discovered how to get out of a tailspin. Once in a spin no flier had ever recovered. However hard one pulled back on the stick, nothing would make a ship's nose come up out of that twisting, uncontrollable descent. Stinson, caught in a spin, thought he might as well die quickly. He pushed the stick forward for a steep dive. The spinning stopped and the ship recovered. Thus the suicidal reaction was the saving one.

Divorce

317. EXPLANATION OF A HOLLYWOOD DIVORCE: "My husband is so changeable. A month ago I adored him. Today I can't stand the sight of him."

318. "How do you suppose your wife will take it when you offer her five hundred thousand dollars for your freedom?"

"Probably in one thousand dollar bills."

319. A divorce trial record:

WIFE: "We were happy for more than a year, your Honor, and then the baby came."

COURT: "Boy or girl?"

WIFE: "Girl. She was a blonde, and moved in next door."

320. The poor bandaged applicant for a divorce said: "My wife isn't safe, Judge. She's been throwing things at me ever since we got married."

"And now you come for a separation after twenty years?"

"Yes, Judge, her aim is getting better!"

321. The sweet young thing got herself involved in a divorce case and was being questioned in court. "So, Miss Smith, you admit that you went to a hotel with this man?"

"Yes, I do, but I couldn't help it—he deceived me."

"And how did he do that?"

"Well, he told the clerk that I was his wife."

322. The attorney for the complainant in the divorce case put his client on the stand.

"Now as I understand it," he said sympathetically, "every night when you returned from work, instead of having your wife alone and waiting for you, you found a different man hiding in the closet?"

"Yes—that's right."

"And this, of course, caused you untold anguish and unhappiness, did it not?"

"Why, sure!" came the hurt reply. "I never had any room to hang my clothes!"

Doctor—Patient

323. Never argue with a doctor—he has inside information.

324. LONG-FACED DOCTOR TO PATIENT: "Let me know if this prescription works—I'm having the same trouble myself."

325. "Doctor, did you ever make a serious mistake?"

"Yes, I once cured a millionaire in three visits."

326. "My wife tells me I talk in my sleep, doctor. What should I do?"

"Nothing that you shouldn't."

327. NERVOUS PATIENT: "Doctor, I often feel like killing myself. What shall I do?"

DOCTOR: "Leave it to me."

328. PSYCHIATRIST: "Do you have trouble making up your mind?"

PATIENT: "Well—yes and no."

329. NOTICE IN A DOCTOR'S OFFICE: "Ladies in the waiting room are asked not to exchange symptoms. It gets the doctor hopelessly mixed up."

330. PATIENT: "I'm scared. This will be my first operation."

DOCTOR: "I know just how you feel. This is my first operation, too."

331. NURSE COMFORTING PATIENT: "Don't let the doctors frighten you. Doctors are like politicians—they view with alarm so they can point with pride!"

332. A banker went to the doctor for a checkup. Finally came the doctor's verdict, "You're as sound as a dollar!"

"As bad as that!" exclaimed the banker. And he fainted dead away!

333. "I hardly like to mention it," said the doctor, "but that check you gave me has come back."

"That's funny, doctor. So has my complaint."

334. "You say this doctor has a large practice?"

"Yes, it's so large that when a patient has nothing the matter with him he tells him so."

335. "Did you follow my prescription?" asked a physician of Beau Nash. "No," said he, "for if I had I should have broken my neck as I threw it out of a second-story window."

336. An old lady went to the doctor on account of pain in her right leg. The doctor gave her some medicine and assured her that the pain came from old age. "That is nonsense!" she said. "My left leg is just as old as my right."

337. A Chicago doctor was surprised one day by a note left on his desk by his secretary. It read: "Mrs....... telephoned to say she would be unable to keep her appointment because she is unwell. She will make a new appointment as soon as she feels better."

338. PATIENT: "Doctor, will I be able to read after I get my glasses?"

DOCTOR: "Indeed, you will."

PATIENT: "Well, that'll be great. I never could read before."

339. SURGEON: "Are you sure this pipe will stand up under the pressure?"

PLUMBER: "Look, Doc, I'm a specialist. . ."

SURGEON: "I'm a specialist myself; that's why I'm asking."

340. EXAMINER: "Suppose, then, that you are the doctor in charge and that the treatment I have just outlined has failed to make the patient perspire. What would you do?"

MEDICAL STUDENT: "I'd show him my bill."

341. "Doc, I just dropped in to tell you how much your treatments helped me."

"But you're not a patient of mine," answered the doctor.

"I know, but my uncle was, and I am his heir."

342. After the physician checked the patient over, the doctor asked. "Have you been leading a normal life?"

"Yes, doctor."

"Well, you'll have to cut it out for a while."

343. An elderly man visited his doctor for a checkup. When the medic completed his examination, he happily reported, "Mr. Jones, you're sound as a dollar. You'll live to be 80."

"But I am 80," Mr. Jones said.

"See, what did I tell you!"

344. DOCTOR: "Well, it looks as though you'll get along all right. Your left leg is swollen but I wouldn't worry too much about it."

PATIENT: "No, and if *your* left leg was swollen, I wouldn't worry too much about it either."

345. Jones fell off his horse and broke his leg. The horse picked him up by the seat of his pants, threw him into the saddle, took him home, put him to bed and called a doctor.

"Smart horse," one of his friends said.

"Not so smart," replied Jones. "The darn fool called a horse doctor."

346. A woman told her doctor she was sure that she had a dangerous illness. He advised her not to be foolish, that she couldn't possibly know whether she had it. The disease, he said, carried with it no discomfort whatever.

"But doctor," she protested, "that is exactly how I feel."

347. "Now, frankly," warned the doctor, "I must inform you that this is a very serious operation. Four out of five patients do not survive. Is there anything I can do for you before I begin?"

"Yes," said the patient, "help me on with my pants."

348. A man went to see the doctor complaining that he could think of nothing but girls.

"You have to stop that," the doctor said, "or you'll lose your hearing."

"Is that so?" asked the patient.

"What did you say?" asked the doctor.

349. PATIENT: "What's the matter with that nurse of yours, Doc? She tells me to strip to the waist and then dashes outa here screaming her head off."

DOCTOR: "Well, what she meant was to strip from the neck down, not from your feet up."

350. "Hurry over, doctor, my wife has a serious attack of appendicitis," he urged over the phone at 3 A.M.

"Don't be alarmed, it can't possibly be her appendix," calmed the physician. "Don't you remember I removed her appendix last year."

"But this is my new wife," he pleaded.

351. The nurse was holding the patient by both wrists when the doctor entered the room.

"You don't have to hold both wrists to check the pulse," said the doctor.

"Sir, I'm not holding his wrists to check his pulse," replied the nurse. "I'm holding them to check his impulses."

352. A physician had just finished checking a patient who was well past middle age. "Well, old man," he said with a smile. "I can't find a thing wrong with you, but I do recommend that you give up about half of your love life."

After a long pause, the patient replied, "Which half should I give up, Doc, thinking about it or talking about it?"

353. A patient was pleading with a doctor that he really didn't need an operation. "There's nothing wrong with me," he argued, "except that my appendix itches."

"Good," replied the doctor. "We'll take it right out."

"Just because it itches?"

"Certainly," the doctor boomed. "Have to take it out before we can scratch it."

354. MIKE: "What made you join the police force?"

PAT: "My doctor told me I should get more exercise."

MIKE: "What has getting more exercise got to do with being a policeman?"

PAT: "Why should I walk on my own time when I can be a policeman and get paid for it?"

355. A doctor called on a patient several times, but the patient was unhappy. On the last visit he announced that he'd called in another doctor.

"And wha's more," said the patient, "he told me your diagnosis is all wrong."

"Is that so?" snapped the doctor. "Well, the autopsy will show who is right."

356. "What's the matter with your husband today?" the doctor inquired. "He looks awful—much worse than he did yesterday."

"It's your fault," replied Mrs. Sullivan. "You told me to give him anything that he craved for, didn't you?"

"Yes, I did," replied the doctor.

"Well, he craved for a fight—and believe me—he got it."

357. The old doctor had never refused a call, from rich or poor, but now he was tired.

"Have you any money?" he asked the midnight caller.

"Certainly," he replied.

"Then go to the new doctor. I'm too old to get out of bed for anybody who can pay for it."

358. The physician turned from the telephone and spoke to his wife.

"I must hurry to Mrs. Jones' boy—he's sick."

"Is it serious?"

"Yes."

"What's the matter with the child?"

"I don't know what's the matter with him, but Mrs. Jones has a book on what to do before the doctor comes. So I must hurry. Whatever it is, she mustn't do it!"

359. The doctor hit the patient on the back and asked him to cough during the examination. "Gosh, doc, I can't cough. I don't feel so good." So the medic hit him once more and again insisted he cough. "Please, doc, don't make me cough. I gotta pain in my chest."

But the doctor was persistent. He doubled up his fist and slammed it as hard as he could into the patient's back. "Cough, I said." So the man did, feebly. "Now, young man," said the doctor, "how long have you had this cough?"

360. The doctor on an Army base had a young corporal as his office assistant to keep track of the paper work in connection with the office, and the young GI was extremely curious about the doctor's affairs. He was continually firing questions at the doctor, and one morning he said: "In civilian life, were most of your cases accidents, Captain?"

"I don't know," replied the doctor.

"How come you don't know?" persisted the corporal.

"Soldier," said the officer as he walked out of the door. "I was an obstetrician!"

361. In these days of wonder drugs, the common cold still defies medical research. Suffering from a severe cold, the patient begged the doctor to cure it for him quickly. But the doctor had only one suggestion, and a strange one it was. He told the man to go out into a cold winter rain with inadequate clothes and allow himself to be soaked through.

"But, Doctor," exclaimed the puzzled patient. "That would give me pneumonia, wouldn't it?"

"Exactly," answered the doctor. "We can cure pneumonia with penicillin in no time, but for a cold—nothing!"

362. In the course of a medical examination a chap was asked in the usual way to stretch his arms in front of him with the fingers of each hand extended.

What the doctor saw was not a mere tremor but such a quivering and shaking in all directions as to be positively alarming.

"Good Lord!" he said. "How ever much do you drink?"

"Scarcely anything at all," answered the examinee. "I spill most of it."

363. A tourist once asked a merchant in San Francisco's Chinatown if China had any good doctors. "Yes, we have plenty of good doctors in China," the storekeeper replied. "Hang Chang is the best. He once saved my life."

"How was that?" asked the tourist.

"Well, you see, I was very, very sick and so I called Dr. Hang Kin. He gave me medicine which made me even sicker. Then I called Dr. San Sing who gave me more medicine which made me sicker still. In fact, I thought I was going to die. Bye and bye I sent for Dr. Hang Chang. He had gone elsewhere and so did not come. So you see, he saved my life."

364. The doleful-looking customer ambled up to the bar. "Six double whiskeys, please," he said.

The bartender said: "Yes, sir," and poured a measure of liquor into each of six glasses.

"And line them up in front of me, will you," said the customer.

Doing as he was bid, the bartender said: "That will be three dollars and sixty cents, sir."

The customer handed him four dollars and said "Keep the change." He tossed down his throat the contents of the first glass in the line. He repeated the process with the third and fifth glasses. Then, saying "Good day," he turned to walk away.

"Excuse me," said the bartender, "but you have left three glasses untouched."

"Yes, I know," said the customer. "The doctor said he didn't mind me taking an odd drink."

365. A certain doctor in the Middle West has received many compliments about his work from patients he has helped. Yet he likes most to remember one bit of tribute that was paid to his deceased father, who had been a doctor also.

Shortly after his father's funeral, the young doctor had stopped to visit a patient, a little boy about three. As the physician was about to leave, the little fellow called him back.

"Doctor, is God very sick?" the child asked anxiously.

The doctor's brow wrinkled in bewilderment. "Why, God never gets sick," he said, a trifle brusquely. "How did you happen to ask me that?"

"'Cause your father died, and I guess God must have sent for him," the little boy replied.

366. Jones died and went to heaven. Upon his arrival there St. Peter immediately checked his records but could find nothing to indicate that Jones was expected there. Turning to Jones he said, "You must be in the wrong place. We have no record of your being due here. You better go down to hell," which Jones promptly proceeded to do.

There he was greeted by the devil, and in checking his records he could find no entry that Jones was expected there. "You must have made a mistake. We are not expecting you here. I find nothing in our books to show that you are due here. You better go back to heaven. They must have made a mistake there."

So back to heaven Jones went where he was once again confronted by St. Peter. "You're back again?"

"Yes, they tell me they are not expecting me there either."

Once again St. Peter thumbed through his records and could find nothing to help the situation. But suddenly a light gleamed over his face. He said, "Yes, here's an indication that you're expected here but you must have had an awfully poor doctor on earth for our files show that you are not due here for at least another three weeks."

Do-it-yourself

367. "Do you approve of the do-it-yourself trend?" the sidewalk radio announcer asked a passerby, holding the microphone up to him.

"Positively not," the man replied, with unexpected vehemence. "I'm definitely against it."

"Why are you so against it?" asked the surprised announcer.

"I'm a ghost writer," was the reply.

368. Thurman "Dusty" Miller once told a story about his two sons: "How does it happen, Pa," the elder lad asked, "if an automobile can make juice enough to start itself, and light itself, why can't it make enough power to run along without any gasoline?"

"Can you lift Harry, there?" countered his father.

"Yes," said Gene.

Turning to Harry, he asked, "Can you lift Gene?"

"Sure I can lift Gene," replied the brother.

"Now, if you boys can lift one another, you ought to be able to lift yourselves. Try it."

Drinking. See also *Drunkenness*

369. If you ask an Englishman to have a drink, what does he reply? He replies, "I don't mind if I do." What he really means is, "I shall mind if I don't."

370. JUNIOR: "Papa, what is the person called who brings you in contact with the spirit world?"

PAPA: "A bartender, my boy."

371. Overheard at the last convention:

"Do you drink."

"Nope."

"Swell. Here—hold the bottle while I tie my shoe."

372. It makes a heap of difference whether you're saving for a rainy day or a wet night.

373. The illness of an old British colonel was diagnosed as dropsy. "Too much water in the body," the doctor explained.

"I've never taken a drop of water in all my life," said the colonel.

Then he was momentarily reflective. Sadly, he remarked: "Must have been all that blasted ice."

374. The temperance lecturer was getting into his stride. "I wish," he shouted, "that all the beer and spirits were at the bottom of the sea."

"So do I," shouted a man at the back of the auditorium.

"Thank you," said the speaker joyfully. "I am glad to see a tee-totaller!"

"Not at all," replied the heckler. "I'm a deep-sea diver."

375. The landlord pushed a large whiskey across the bar.

The stranger picked it up with one hand, held his nose with the other and closed his eyes. Then he downed it in one gulp.

The landlord smiled. "It isn't that bad, is it?" he asked.

"Oh, no," replied the stranger. "If I see it or smell it my mouth waters and dilutes the darn stuff."

376. It was the first time she had been to dinner with her fiance's family, and they smiled indulgently as she refused a scotch and soda.

"I've never touched it in my life," she explained.

"Why not try?" urged her host. "See if you like the taste."

She blushed and shyly consented, and he poured out a mixture which she delicately raised to her lips.

"Why," she cried, "you've given me rye!"

377. Sir William Osler was lecturing one day to a group of medical students on the subject of intoxicating beverages.

"Is it true," asked one of the students, "that alcohol makes people able to do things better?"

"Not at all," replied the famous doctor. "It just makes them less ashamed of doing them badly."

378. A tired businessman arrived home. The cook had left that morning without giving notice. The market had been depressed all day. Sales had been bad and cancellations had been numerous. His landlord had notified him of an increase in rent. And now he found a note from his wife saying that she had left him.

He knew that a shot would end all his troubles. So he opened up a new bottle and took one.

379. One day, so an Arab legend goes, the devil presented himself to a man and said, "You are about to die. I can save you from death in any one of three different ways—and this is how: you may kill your servant, beat your wife, or drink this wine."

"Let me think," said the man. "To kill my faithful servant is impossible; to mistreat my wife is nothing short of ridiculous. I will drink the wine."

"So saying, he drank the wine and, being drunk, he beat his wife and killed his servant who attempted to defend her.

380. Mother was busy in the kitchen when Junior asked, "Daddy wouldn't murder anybody, would he?"

"Gracious, no. What made you ask a question like that?"

"Well, I heard him down in the basement saying 'Let's kill the other two, Joe.' "

381. A reader wrote to Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen, author of the column, "How to Keep Well," in the *Chicago Tribune*: "Because of a serious internal condition, I cannot drink alcoholic beverages. Consequently I cannot get that high feeling that makes a person more daring and aggressive. Is there any other way to get it, or some facsimile thereof?" To which the wise doctor replied: "Just act silly, and no one will know the difference. You will feel 'high' the next morning, whereas those who indulged will be feeling mighty low."

382. The well-dressed man at the bar was drinking the most expensive liquor in the house. He was loaded and philosophical.

He turned to a stranger sitting next to him and commented, "Some guys drink to forget; some drink to be gay; others drink because it's a compulsion."

"And you?" the stranger said.

"Me," the philosopher said. "I drink because my expense account allows for it."

383. The bar was crowded and the drunken customer in the bowler hat called out to the bartender, "Drinks for everybody, and you have one too, bartender."

Obediently the barman served everybody and downed one himself. He then turned to the man in the bowler and said, "That'll be £8." "Haven't got any money," replied the customer. The barman reached out, punched him on the nose, and roughly threw him out of the premises.

A few minutes later our friend in the bowler was back, staggered to the center of the bar and in a loud voice shouted, "Drinks for everybody." Then pointing at the

barman, he said, "None for you, my friend, when you have a drink you get nasty."

Druggist—Drug store

384. "You don't sell used cars? What kind of a drug store is this?"

385. Perhaps the druggist should have been momentarily startled when the woman told him not to deliver the rat poison but just to give it to her husband the first time he came in for a coke.

386. The young lady waited patiently in the drug store until the pharmacist was free to wait on her. "What will it be?" he asked.

"I wonder," she asked, "if you'd read this letter from my fiance for me? He's a doctor!"

387. Two druggists were talking about one of their number who had recently gone to his reward.

"He was a great druggist," said one.

"He was," admitted the other, "but don't you think he made his chicken salad sandwiches just a little too salty?"

388. A man walked into a drug store and took a seat at the counter.

"Give me a ham sandwich," he ordered.

"A what?"

"A ham sandwich."

"Ham sandwich isn't on the menu, but I can give you a sandwich with ham in it—like a midnight special."

"What's a midnight special?"

"A triple decker with ham, cheese, tongue, bologna, lettuce, onion tomato, pickle, mayonnaise, on raisin bread, toasted, with coleslaw on the side."

"Look! Have you any ham?"

"Yes, sir!"

"Could you place a piece of ham between two slices of white bread and serve same to me on a plate?"

"Why, sure!"

"Then, turning and addressing a soda-jerker, he sang out: "One midnight special. Make it one deck. Hold the cheese, tongue, bologna, tomato, lettuce, onion, pickle, mayonnaise and coleslaw, and make the raisin bread white, untoasted."

Drunkenness. See also *Drinking*

389. Whoever heard of a small town's alcoholics being anonymous?

390. "Well, doctor, I thought my husband had a temperature so I put the barometer on his chest and it says 'Very Dry.' So he gets up and goes out for a pint!"

391. "Shay, lady, you're about the homeliest woman I ever shaw."

"And you're about the drunkenest man I ever saw!"

"I know, I know . . . but I'll get over it in the morning."

392. A drunk approached a large hotel in the windy city, Chicago, just as a gust of wind spun the revolving doors. The drunk stepped back, looked up at the tall building, turned to the doorman and said, "He'll never get it off the ground."

393. Before leaving his office to go to lunch, a real estate dealer, who was building a house in a new addition to a small town, sent his office boy to the site to see if the plastering was completed. When the real estate dealer returned from his lunch he found this note on his desk: "On account of Joe and Fred was, your house ain't yet."

394. They had been standing at the bar getting progressively drunk. Finally one turned to the fellow alongside him.

"You're nothing but a henpecked, silly, ignorant little jerk," he growled belligerently.

"You wouldn't dare say that," answered the other, "if my wife was here!"

395. After years of scolding her husband for coming home drunk, Mrs. Quinn was counseled to treat him with kindness instead to bring him around to his senses. The next morning when Pat came staggering in, she greeted him affectionately, seated him comfortably, helped remove his filthy clothes, embraced him and asked him to kiss her.

"I may as well," he muttered in a stupor, "I'll get hell when I get home anyway."

396. Two drunks were sitting at a table, staring mournfully into their drinks. One of them, cupping his hands together as if they contained something, asked his companion:

"What I got in my hands?"

His companion thought seriously: "Brooklyn Bridge?"

"No."

"The Belmont Park race track?"

"No. But you're gettin' warm."

"A horse."

The first drunk opened his hands a little and peeped in. Then he looked up eagerly. "What color?" he asked.

397. Out on Long Island one night, a fast-moving automobile suddenly jumped the road, leaped over a couple of retaining walls and rolled over on its back in an adjoining field.

A highway policeman, hard on the speeder's heels, pulled up beside the overturned car.

"What in blazes d'ya think you're doing?" he demanded. "You drunk or something?"

"Cer'nly I'm drunk," snapped the driver. "Whattya think I am—a stunt driver?"

398. Adlai Stevenson, commenting on the report that he really wants to stay on as a State Department consultant, told the story of a drunk who called the hotel switchboard at 6 A.M. to ask when the bar would open.

"Nine A.M.," the telephone girl replied.

A half hour later the man called again, asked the same question, in thicker tones, received the same response.

When, unmistakably drunk, he called again at 7, the girl said in exasperation, "For the third time, you can get in the bar at 9 A.M.!"

"Get in?" said the drunk, "I want to get out!"

399. On a motor trip a friend pointed out a railroad bridge across a river through which a train plunged years ago, drowning most of the passengers.

One man who had planned to take this train went into a barroom to have a social drink before the train started. He had more than one drink and the train pulled out, leaving him behind.

After that he drank a great deal. His explanation: "It was a glass of whiskey that kept me from taking that train, and thus saved my life. I've got to drink now just to show my appreciation of the great kindness rendered me by King Alcohol."

MORAL: One excuse for drinking is probably as good as another.

400. It was mid-afternoon in the London pub. There were only two customers and it was impossible for the two bartenders not to overhear their conversation. "Where you from?" asked one patron of the other.

"U.S.A.," the second patron replied.

"So'm I. What town?"

"Los Angeles."

"Why, that's where I come from. What address?"

"2332 Oakwood Drive."

"That's the darndest thing I ever heard of. That's my address."

"What's your apartment number?"

"Three."

"I just can't believe it! That's my apartment."

The young bartender turned to his superior. "I've never heard anything like it before in my life!" he exclaimed. "Two strangers happen to meet in a pub, and both are

from the States, both from the same town, the same address, and the same apartment. It's miraculous!"

"Oh, it's not so much when you know the background," the senior bartender replied. "Two weeks ago, when they first came in and started drinking, they were father and son."

Education

401. MOTHER: "Well, Tommy, did you learn much on your first day at school?"

TOMMY: "Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow."

402. There can be drawbacks in teaching men to read and write. One inmate of the State Reformatory at Olympia, Washington spent six months in that institution and during that period learned to read and write. He was paroled. Six months later he was back, convicted on a charge of forgery!

403. Several of the town's cracker barrel philosophers were engaged in a discussion of the value of education. One man stressed the importance of a good education, saying that anyone is at a distinct disadvantage without it.

"Well, now, I am not so sure about that," replied an old man. "I'm not edicated at all, an' it seems to me that when you're *not* edicated, you just *have* to use your brains!"

404. A quack killed one of his patients and, as a result, was bound hand and foot by the bereaved family. At night he struggled loose, dived into a river, and made his escape.

When he got home he found his son deep in the study of a medical tome.

"Never mind studying medicine, my son," he blurted out. "It is much more important that you learn swimming."

405. When James A. Garfield was president of Hiram College, in Ohio, he was approached by the father of a prospective pupil.

"Can't you simplify the course?" he asked. "My boy will never take all that in. He wants to get through by a shorter route."

"Certainly," answered Garfield, "I can arrange for that. It all depends of course, on what you want to make of him. When God wants to make an oak, He takes a hundred years; but when He wants to make a squash, He requires only two months."

406. Once Dwight Morrow was invited to a conference of students at Amherst, and somebody put this question to him: "What course of study would you recommend for a student who plans to become a banker?"

This was his answer: "Well, I don't know that I can prescribe any special subjects that could fit him for that particular job, but I can tell you this—let him pick out from the curriculum the hardest subjects he can find, and I don't care what they are, and on top of these add the hardest one on the elective list and give to that program for the four years of his college course all the time and effort that he can muster, I won't promise you that he will become a banker, but I am sure of one thing: when he gets through, there won't be a bank in the country that won't be glad to employ him, and he may even end up becoming its president."

Effort

407. Garibaldi, the Italian patriot, warned his men: "I do not promise you ease. I do not promise you comfort. But I do promise you these: hardship, weariness and suffering. And with them I promise you victory."

408. When the old lady was training her son for the trapeze, the boy made three or four ineffectual efforts to get over the bar. Then she was heard to suggest: "John

Henry Hobbs, if you will just throw your heart over the bars, your body will follow."

409. CHAIRMAN (at an annual meeting): "Ladies and Gentlemen, you may think that half of the committee do all the work, and that the other half do nothing. As a matter of fact, I can assure you that the reverse is the case."

410. One morning Professor John Berdan of Yale read to an English composition class a particularly inept theme and, as usual, called for comments. The students panned it unmercifully.

"Interesting," commented Berdan, "because I wrote the theme myself." As the critics began to blush, he continued: "You are quite right. This theme is incredibly bad. I spent two hours of painstaking effort last night to make sure I had not omitted a single feature of poor writing, and I believe I succeeded."

The professor paused for dramatic effect.

"What astounds me," he resumed, "is how you men can dash these things off day after day *in ten minutes*."

Embarrassment

411. Mr. Brown had been a widower for many years. One evening he said to his daughter, "Do you know, my dear, that our housekeeper is getting married?"

"That's good, Daddy!" said the girl. "Now we shall get rid of the old frump at last. And who is the unlucky man she is marrying?"

"Me," said Mr. Brown.

412. When Philip Guedalla was president of the debating society at Oxford, he begged a friend to ask him two special questions—there are always questions before the debate starts—to which he had carefully prepared answers. The friend agreed and put the first question. Mr. Guedalla's witty reply sent a ripple of laughter through the assembly. His brilliant retort to the second question

brought down the house. The friend now felt it was his turn and, rising gravely from his seat once more, inquired: "What was the third question you wished me to ask you?"

Employer—Employee. See also *Employment*

413. It's easy to entertain the boss . . . just listen to him.

414. To make a long story short, there is nothing like having the boss walk in.

415. BOSS TO EMPLOYEE: "I'd like to pay you what you're worth, but it's against the minimum wage law."

416. You can always tell who the boss is. He is the one who watches the clock during the coffee breaks.

417. "We've giving you a raise, Smithers," said the boss, "because we want your last week here to be a happy one."

418. "You can't quit now," the circus manager told the human cannon-ball. "Where can I find another man of your caliber?"

419. PLUMBER: "Did you bring all the tools?"
HELPER: "Yes, sir!"
PLUMBER: "You're fired!"

420. The difference between a man and his valet: they both smoke the same cigars, but only one pays for them.

421. "I feel like I'd like to punch the boss in the jaw again."
"Gosh! Did you say AGAIN?"
"Yeah. I felt like doing it once before."

422. Comic Sid Caesar told about an office boy who got fired for praying for a raise. His boss roared, "I won't have anybody going over my head."

423. CUTE YOUNG THING TO PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER: "Before I accept this job, Mr. Slawson, I think it only fair to tell you there won't be any opportunities for advances."

424. "Smith," said his employer, "you have worked for me for five years. To mark my appreciation of this you will henceforth be addressed as Mr. Smith."

425. EMPLOYER: "You say you were with the last place 32 years. Why did you leave?"

JOB SEEKER: "I was paroled."

426. "The boss is mean," the man told his wife, "but he's fair."

"What do you mean by that?"

"Well, he's mean to everybody."

427. A new man in the office was given some fatherly advice by the boss: "I don't mind you following in my footsteps, but please wait until I get out of them."

428. "You told me how good you were when I engaged you three months ago," said the managing director to the new typist. "Now, tell me all over again; I'm getting discouraged."

429. "How do you like your new boss?"

"Rotten. We don't pull together at all. When I'm late he's early, and when I'm early he's late."

430. "Are you a clock watcher?" asked the employer of a candidate for a job.

"No, I don't like inside work," replied the applicant, "I'm a whistle listener."

431. EMPLOYMENT MANAGER: "It looks to me like your husband has been fired from every job he ever held."

LOYAL WIFE: "Yes, but it does prove one thing. He's no quitter."

432. Said the hired man: "I've been with you 25 years, and I've never asked for a raise before."

Retorted the farmer: "That is why you've been here 25 years!"

433. A couple of newspapermen were discussing their new editor over some late-day martinis.

"You can't help liking the guy," said one. "If you don't he fires you."

434. "I'm going to fire that chauffeur," shouted Mr. Brown. "This is the third time this week he nearly killed me."

"Now, now, dear," soothed his wife. "Give the poor man another chance."

435. BOSS: "What are you doing here? Didn't you read the letter I sent you?"

OFFICE BOY: "Yes, sir. I read it inside and outside. On the inside it said, 'You are fired,' and on the outside it said, 'Return in five days,' so here I am."

436. "Just why do you want a married man to work for you, rather than a bachelor?" asked the curious chap.

"Well," said the boss, "the married men don't get so upset if I yell at them."

437. The boss was feared by his staff for the caustic memos he wrote. One day one of his assistants discovered to his horror that he'd given the executive a set of wrong figures. Fearfully he wrote to the boss.

"In answer to your memo of tomorrow . . ."

438. EMPLOYER: "Sorry, young man, but I don't need any help. I just couldn't find enough work to keep you busy."

APPLICANT: "You'd be surprised how little it takes."

439. BOSS: "You want more money? Why, my boy, I worked three years for $11 a month here in this establishment. Now I own it!"

BOY: "Well, you see what happened to your boss. No man who treats his help that way can hang on to his job."

440. When a secretary of Washington, excusing himself for being late, said that his watch was too slow, the reply of Washington was, "You must get a new watch, or I must get a new secretary."

441. "The boss just offered me an interest in the business," the young clerk confided to the pretty stenographer.

"He did?" she asked in surprise.

"Yeah," the young man replied reflectively. "He said if I didn't take an interest in the business pretty soon, he'd fire me."

442. The boss visited the ailing employe in the hospital. "Now, George," he said, "don't you worry. Everybody at the office is going to pitch in and do your work—as soon as we can figure out just what you have been doing."

443. A traveling salesman, marooned in the Orkney Islands by a bad storm, wired to his firm in Aberdeen: "Marooned by storm; wire instructions." Back came the reply promptly: "Start summer holidays as from yesterday."

444. The ace sales agent returned after six weeks on the road and presented his expense account to the manager. "What's this big item here on the account?" growled the boss.

"Oh," replied the salesman, "that's my hotel bill."

"Well," grunted the boss, "don't buy any more hotels!"

445. The boss was giving a pep talk to one of his employes. "Do you think of the future?" he asked. "Do you ever think of how much you will be earning five years from now?" "Nope," the employe answered, "but I do think of how much I'll be getting paid."

446. PERSONNEL MANAGER TO APPLICANT: "What we're after is a man of vision; a man with drive, determination, fire; a man who never quits; a man who can inspire others; a man who can pull the company's bowling team out of last place!"

447. Two partners were interviewing applicants for the job of private secretary. One female bombshell had excellent references, but the partners did not enthuse after she waddled out.

"I don't think she'll do," said one. "There's too much of her in the first place."

His partner added: "That goes for the second place, too!"

448. The boss was exasperated with his new secretary. She ignored the telephone when it rang.

"You must answer the telephone," he told her, irritably.

"O.K.," she replied, "but it seems so silly. Nine times out of ten it's for you."

449. EMPLOYER: "How do you budget your income?"

EMPLOYE: "25% for rent, 35% for food, 20% for clothing, 10% amusement, 15% miscellaneous, and 25% for taxes."

EMPLOYER: "Why that runs up to 130%."

EMPLOYE: "You're telling me!"

450. During his ball-playing heyday, Hank Greenberg demanded a fancy salary from Walter Briggs, then owner of the Detroit Tigers.

"I don't see why you want so much money, Hank," said Briggs. "When I was your age I had two children and was earning $25 a week."

"That's why I want so much now," said Greenberg. "When I'm your age I may have two children and be earning $25 a week."

451. A young man was applying for a position as plumber's helper.

"Got any references?" asked the plumber.

"You bet I have," replied the applicant, "but I left them home. I'll be glad to go and get them."

"Never mind," said the plumber, "you'll do."

452. A maid who seemed to like the work gave notice one day without warning. "Why do you wish to leave?" the lady of the house inquired. "Is anything wrong?"

"I just can't stand the suspense in this house, madam."

"Suspense? What do you mean?"

"It's that sign over my bed that says: 'Watch ye. For ye know not when the master cometh.'"

453. An office worker went to his boss one day to complain that, although he had been employed there for 25

years, a position which he felt he was entitled to had been awarded to a man with fewer years of service.

"My friend," said the office manager, "although you've been here 25 years, you haven't had 25 years of experience. You've had only one year's experience 25 times."

454. After falling from a 75-ft. scaffolding to the ground, a steeplejack was rushed by ambulance to the hospital.

A policeman accompanying the man to the hospital asked him for his occupation.

"An ex-steeplejack," was the reply. Puzzled, the policeman asked him when he gave up his trade.

"About half-way down," he groaned.

455. The manager of the general store employed a young man recently graduated from an efficiency course. He escorted the employe to the basement. "We're taking inventory this week," he said.

"Everything has to be counted. Start in this corner; here are notebook and pencil for your record. Try not to overlook anything."

At five that afternoon the new clerk toiled up the stairs, notebook in hand.

"How far did you get?" asked the manager.

"Well," replied the employe, "there were 19,657 jelly-beans in the first barrel."

456. After several practice fire drills, the employes of a government office invited the chief of the fire brigade and his men to watch them go through a drill. With the ringing of the fire alarm, the 500 employes evacuated the four-story building in three minutes and ten seconds.

Everyone was proud and pleased—until the buzzer sounded for quitting time that afternoon and someone timed that evacuation. This time the building was cleared in exactly two minutes.

457. Andrew Carnegie was showing a delegation through his plant when he stopped to talk to a stooped, gray-haired employe. "Let's see, Wilson," he said. "How many years exactly is it that you've been with me now?"

"Thirty-nine, sir," beamed Wilson. "And may I add that in that entire time I made only one trifling mistake?" "Good work," grunted Carnegie, "but from now on, please try to be a bit more careful."

458. A seventeen-year-old applied for a job with a road construction gang. He was slightly built and the boss eyed him critically. "Afraid you won't do, son," he said. "This is heavy work and you can't keep up with the heavier, older men."

The youngster glanced at the crew leaning on their shovels. "Perhaps I can't do as much as these men *can* do," he replied, "but I certainly can do as much as they *will* do." He got the job.

459. The boss called the new typist into his office. "Miss Gann," he said, "you are the best-looking girl we ever had working in this office."

A pleased look came into the girl's eyes.

"You dress well," the boss continued, "you have a nice voice, you make a good impression on the public, and your deportment is fine."

"Oh, thank you," she said. "Your compliments are very pleasing."

"Enjoy them to the fullest," returned the boss, "because we are now going to discuss your spelling, punctuation and typing."

460. A nervous gentleman who had lost his own driver's license some years previously always blamed his troubles on the unpredictability of women drivers. Naturally his wife's handling of the family car when they went out gave him fits. He decided to end this source of family arguments by hiring an expert chauffeur.

"I want a man who doesn't trust women drivers," he explained in interviewing an applicant. "In fact, I want a man so very careful that he won't trust anyone."

"I'm just your man," the applicant replied promptly, "I'm so doggone careful I even want my salary in advance."

Employment. See also *Employer—Employe*

461. "When will your brother's leg be well so he can come to work?"

"Not for a long time, I think."

"Why?"

"'Cause compensation's set in."

462. Oscar, the country boy, came to the big city and got a job as janitor in a girl's boarding school. On the first day he was given a pass key to every room. Three weeks later, the dean met him in the hall and asked, "Why didn't you come around last Saturday and get your pay?"

"What!" said Oscar, "do I get a salary, too?"

463. Andy called at the employment office to apply for a job that he had seen advertised. "But, my dear man," said the manager, "you are much too late. Why, I've had over a thousand applications already!" Andy looked thoughtful. "Well," he said, after a while, "how about employing me to classify applications?"

464. The department manager and his assistant were in earnest conversation. "No. 1 on our list of things to do," said the manager, "is to find somebody who can take over Speakman's job. He's retiring in six months, you know."

"I know," said the assistant. "I'm trying to line up a replacement. But I can't find another Speakman. He's dependable, capable, has a perfect attendance record, and always does his best. A man like that is tough to come by."

"Sure it's tough," agreed the boss, "but we've got to do it. The day Speakman retires from the company we've got to have somebody good, ready to step into his shoes—his bowling shoes. We can't let the department team down."

465. Two judges of Cook County recently died and took different routes to their destinations. When one judge

got to Heaven, he immediately called the other judge and said, "How do you like it down there?"

"Fine," said the second judge. "All we have to do is ascend the bench at 11:00 A.M. We wear a red judicial robe and we're through with our Court Call by 11:15 A.M. Everybody down here gets an immediate trial. We don't work more than 15 minutes a day. By the way, tell me, how is everything upstairs?"

"Terrible," said the first judge. "We get on the bench at 8:00 A.M. and don't get through with our Court Call until 10:00 or 11:00 P.M. at night. If you think the Cook County Calendar is bad, you should see our Calendar. The plaintiff can't get a trial for about 10 to 20 years."

"How come you have to work so hard?" asked the second judge.

"Well, to tell you the truth," replied the first judge, "we have a terrific shortage of judges up here."

Etiquette

466. It's considered improper and discourteous to walk out on your hosts before the party ends. Wait and be carried out with the rest.

467. As the pretty girl entered the crowded car, a man rose to his feet.

"No, you must keep your seat—I insist," said the young woman.

"You may insist all you like, Miss," replied the man, "but I'm getting off here."

468. Fred stopped at Tony's house to play, and by supper time it was raining. Tony's mother got out her son's raincoat and rubbers for his little friend to wear home. Fred seemed reluctant, and Tony's mother said, "I'm sure your mother would do as much for Tony."

"My mother," said Fred, "would ask Tony to stay for supper."

469. A customer sat at a table in a smart restaurant and tied his napkin around his neck. "Try to tell him as diplomatically as possible," the manager told the waiter, "that that's not done in here."

The waiter paused thoughtfully, then said to the customer, "Pardon me, sir. Shave or haircut?"

Exchange

470. A woman was walking a very handsome dog when she met an acquaintance.

"Look at the swell dog I got for my husband," she remarked.

"H'm," was the other's terse reply, "you have all the luck. Wish I could make a trade like that!"

471. Two sharp Yankee traders met in front of the town post office a few days after they had swapped horses. Each bitterly accused the other of having "skinned" him in the deal.

A stranger, taking it all in, remarked to another bystander, "Why don't they just trade back?"

"Because," was the reply, "they're both afraid they'll get skinned again."

Excuse—Excuses

472. The angry Hollywood wife asked her husband his excuse for coming home at 4 A.M.

"Breakfast," he replied.

473. "You've already had leave, Ferguson, to see your wife off on a journey—for your mother-in-law's funeral—for your little girl's measles—for your boy's christening—what is it now?"

"I'm going to get married, sir."

474. Ring Lardner once sent this telegram of regret at being unable to attend a dinner in his honor:

"SORRY I CANNOT MAKE IT. IT IS BABY'S NIGHT OUT AND I MUST STAY HOME WITH THE NURSE."

475. Two friends were riding in a crowded bus when one noticed that the other had his eyes closed. "What's the matter, Wimberly?" he asked, "are you ill?"

"No," answered his friend, "I just can't bear to see women standing."

476. "Whoever told that guy he was a professor? He just doesn't know how to teach the stuff. Everybody hates him. Every time he tries to explain something he digresses so much that no one can understand what he's talking about. I think he ought to quit teaching and go back to the farm."

"Yeah, I flunked, too."

477. In Cecil's *Lord Melbourne* it is told that Lord John Russell described to a friend how at a party he had left the Duchess of Inverness to talk to the Duchess of Sutherland, because she was sitting farther from the fire and he felt too hot.

"I hope you told the Duchess of Inverness why you left her," said the friend.

"No," said Lord John after a pause, "but I did tell the Duchess of Sutherland."

478. "At dinner one evening my six-year-old granddaughter overheard a child refuse bacon with words, 'I'm Catholic and don't eat meat on Friday.'

"She went back to her meal without saying anything, but the following Monday she pushed away her spinach. 'I'm Methodist,' she said firmly, 'and don't eat spinach on Monday.'"

Experience

479. "I suppose," probed the payroll supervisor, "that you and your wife have a joint checking account?"

"No," answered the new employe, "this is my second wife."

480. SLOW, ELDERLY GOLFER: "Let me inform you, young man, that I was playing this game before you were born."

IMPATIENT OPPONENT: "Well, would you mind trying to finish it before I die."

481. A man applied for a bookkeeping job.

"Where did you get your training?"

"Yale."

"Splendid! What's your name?"

"Yohnson."

482. An old merchant, who had not been famed for his honesty in his youth, when about to retire from business, sent for his nephews and informed them of the fact that he was about to give up in their favor, adding that he hoped they would continue to deal so as to ensure the confidence of their customers, and, above all things, to remember that honesty was the best policy, adding, "I can speak from experience, as I have tried both."

483. One day a young Talmudic scholar who had just completed a learned work came to the Rabbi and begged him for a testimonial. The Rabbi regarded his visitor with gentle compassion.

"My son," he said, "you must face the stern realities. If you wish to be a writer of learned books you must be resigned to peddle your work from house to house like a vendor of pots and pans and suffer hunger until you are forty."

"And what will happen after I'm forty?" asked the young writer hopefully.

The rabbi smiled encouragingly. "By the time you are forty you will be used to it."

Explanation

484. The scientist, returning to his old home-town after many years' absence, was giving a lecture in the village hall.

"Now all of you probably know what a molecule is?" he questioned, gazing over the gathering.

The chairman of the meeting, anxious to show that he'd kept abreast of the latest developments, interrupted the speaker. "I believe most of us do, but maybe you'd better explain them for the benefit of those who haven't been up in one."

485. A Pullman conductor, on being asked about the difference of one dollar in price between the upper and the lower berth, explained the difference in this fashion:

"The lower is higher than the upper. The higher price is for the lower. If you want it lower, you'll have to go higher. Most people don't like the upper, although it is lower, on account of its being higher. When you occupy an upper you have to get up to go to bed and get down to get up."

486. A commercial traveler decided suddenly that he would spend a weekend at home. He sent a telegram to his wife and took the next train. On his arrival he found his wife in the embrace of another man. He left the house in a fury, declaring that he would apply for a divorce.

The next day his father-in-law called to try to smooth things over.

"I'm sure my daughter has an explanation for her behavior," he said. "Look here, will you wait until tomorrow before you do anything about the divorce?"

The husband agreed reluctantly. On the morrow his father-in-law returned, beaming all over his face.

"I knew Dorothy would have an explanation," he said, patting the husband on the back. "She didn't get your wire."

487. DISGRUNTLED SON: "I thought I told you not to tell Mother what time I got home last night."

INDIFFERENT COOK: "I didn't. I simply said I was too busy fixing breakfast to look at the clock."

488. A suburbanite hired a gardener; the man was to start work at exactly eight A.M. on a Monday morning. Monday morning came and went, but the gardener did not appear, nor did he send word all week. The next Monday, at precisely eight A.M., he turned up. The suburbanite was indignant, and asked for an explanation. "You told me to come last Monday," said the gardener. "Monday, I forgot; Tuesday, I forgot; Wednesday, I knew I would be busy on Thursday; by Friday, the week was over and I didn't want to disturb you on the weekend, especially since you told me to come on Monday. That's the true story; what are you complaining about?"

Failure

489. DOWN-AND-OUTER (as he watches a successful man whirl by in a Cadillac: "There but for me go I."

490. "I met Thomas A. Edison at the Carlton in London," said a New Yorker on the Cunard pier. "Edison astonished me with his account of working twenty-hours a day for weeks on end!

"After lunch hour one day Edison and I walked up the Haymarket. Edison, as usual, talked about hard work. I said thoughtfully:

" 'I suppose success always means hard work, doesn't it?'

" 'Yes,' said Edison, 'it does.'

"He nodded towards a poor old sandwich man—a poor, thin, bent old fellow of seventy or so, staggering along in the gutter under three heavy and enormous sandwich-boards—and he added:

'But failure means harder.' "

Faith

491. "If you don't believe in God, you ain't a whole man," said Elder Johnson. "A lot of smart people claim they don't believe nothin' unless they c'n see it. Look,

friend, you cain't see electricity in that high-tension wire up yonder, but I dare you to tech it! No, you can't see electricity, but you c'n see the light!"

492. A girl reporter had heard of an unusual woman and called on her for an interview. The woman, a widow for years, had raised six of her own children and adopted twelve others. "How have you been able to raise all these children and do it so well?" asked the reporter. "It's been very simple," the widow replied. "You see, I'm in a partnership."

"A what?" asked the reporter.

To which the woman benignly replied: "A partnership. One day a long time ago I said to the Lord: 'Lord, I'll do the work and You do the worrying' and I haven't had a worry since."

Fame

493. The retired baseball player was a disappointed man. He had been on several world championship teams. He had been on the All-Star team every year he played. He had been elected to the Hall of Fame.

"Yet," he moaned, "I missed the greatest honor of all. I never had my picture in the newspaper showing me drying dishes at home."

494. A successful businessman alighted at the station in his old home town, after about ten years of absence. In spite of his expectations, there was no one he knew on the platform.

Discouraged, he sought out the station ticket agent, a friend since boyhood. He was about to extend a hearty greeting when the ticket agent called out: "Hello, Joe! Going away?"

495. When Governor Alfred E. Smith was once trying to engage a taxi to hurry to a radio station for a broadcast, the driver, not recognizing his passenger, begged to be excused because he was anxious to get home in time

to hear Governor Smith talk over the radio. Flattered by the excuse, the Happy Warrior tendered the chauffeur a five dollar bill as he urged him to drive.

"Hop in, mister," cheerfully directed the driver as he reached for the five spot, "the hell with the Governor."

496. At a party, violinist Fritz Kreisler was entertaining his fellow guests with a dazzling display of card tricks. Later, one of the guests approached him and said:

"Would you care to perform at a party I am giving next week?"

"See my agent," said Kreisler. "He makes the financial arrangements."

The agent was consulted the next morning and the contract was signed. The following week, when Kreisler arrived at the party, he placed his violin on a chair and started to rub his hands to get the chill out of them.

His host, entering the room, took in the scene at once. "Well," he whistled, "you play the violin, too!"

497. An English tradesman rented a house in Winchester where the distinguished author of *Pride and Prejudice* had once dwelt.

This shopkeeper, it seems, approached the trustees of Winchester College, from whom he rented the building, with the request that they put up some sort of informative plaque on the premises. "American tourists keep coming into my shop to ask if it is the Jane Austen house," he explained. "They take up my time and never buy anything. It's a great nuisance."

So a neat plaque was provided, with the succinct inscription:

HOME OF
JANE AUSTEN
1775-1817

In a fortnight the shopkeeper was back. "Take down the plaque!" he pleaded.

"What's the matter," asked a college executive, "didn't it help?"

"Twice as many people are coming in," lamented the tradesman, "only now they are Englishmen. They keep coming in to ask, 'Who was Jane Austen?' "

498. An amusing story is told of how an American asked almost every man he met in Switzerland for the name of the Swiss chief executive, and while everyone of them knew it, had it right on the end of his tongue, it somehow seemed to stick there. No one could recall it. At last one evening in Berne he approached an honest-looking man and, as a last resort, said:

"Could you by any chance tell me the name of the Swiss president?"

The effect was startling. After looking up and down the street he whispered:

"Mon Dieu! c'est moi! I am the Swiss President; but —ah non, do not tell anyone! I am the only man in Switzerland who knows it!

"You see," explained the president, "I am elected privately; no campaigns, no scandal, and only for a year. A sort of chairman, though of course the work is important. My name is—ah, yes, Oh, there's my tram—so sorry I have to leave you. I'll see you again sometime perhaps."

Farm—Farmer—Farming

499. "My garden was such a success this year," boasted a gentleman farmer, "that my neighbor's chickens took first prize at the poultry show."

500. The farmer came back from the county fair with a new horse. The animal refused to eat or drink. The farmer's eyes gleamed. "By golly, I've got a bargain if he's a good worker," he said.

501. A farmer wrote to a veterinarian for free advice, saying, "I have a horse who sometimes walks normal and at other times has a decided limp, what shall I do?"

The vet replied, "The next time he walks normal, sell him."

502. A tourist stopped to talk with a backwoods farmer. "I see you raise hogs almost exclusively around here," he said. "Do they pay better than corn and potatoes?"

"Well, no," drawled the farmer, "but hogs don't need no hoein'."

503. "Your methods of cultivation are hopelessly out of date," said the youthful agricultural college graduate to the old farmer. "Why I'd be astonished if you got even ten pounds of apples from that tree."

"So would I, son," replied the farmer. "It's a peach tree."

504. The new farm hand was awakened at 4:00 A.M. by the farmer, who announced they were going to cut oats.

"Are they wild oats?"

"No, why?"

"Then why do you have to sneak up on them in the dark?"

505. When one of his men submitted a report for the loss of 2025 pigs, the railroad claim agent went out to the farmer for an interview. "That's a lot of pigs," he said to the farmer. "Are you sure our train ran over that many?"

"Yeth," said the farmer.

"Thanks," said the claim agent and changed the original report to read: "Two sows and 25 pigs."

Fashion

506. Just about the time you teach your children that you can't put more in a container than it'll hold, along comes a woman wearing slacks.

507. HUSBAND (just before a party): "I find your new evening gown rather confusing."

WIFE: "How so?"

HUSBAND: "Well, are you inside trying to get out, or outside trying to get in?"

Father—Son

508. A good father who finds his son on the wrong track will provide switching facilities.

509. If you're going to make a pal of your boy, don't do it until after he has had quadratic algebraic equations.

510. A small boy, visiting New York City for the first time, went in an elevator to the top of the Empire State Building. As he shot past the 62nd floor at breath-taking speed, he gulped, turned to his father and asked, "Daddy, does God know we're coming?"

511. An Episcopalian minister received a church promotion. That night when his young son was being tucked into bed, he asked his mother, "Now that daddy's a canon, does that make me a son-of-a-gun?"

512. "Pop, if I saved you a dollar, would you give me 50 cents of it?"

"Yes, I guess so, son."

"Well, I saved it for you. You said you'd give me a dollar if I passed in arithmetic, and I flunked."

513. A small child asked his father if he had any work he could do around the place to replenish his finances. The father assured him that he could think of nothing.

"Then," suggested the modern child, "how about putting me on relief?"

514. Letter from college student: "Dear Dad—Gue$$ what $ need mo$t of all. That'$ right. $end it along. Be$t Wihe. Your $on, Tom."

Letter from dad to son: "Dear Tom: NOthing ever happens here. We kNOw you like your school. Write us aNOther letter, aNOn. Jimmie was asking about you Monday. NOw we have to say goodbye."

515. A teen-age boy approached his father one evening and asked if he might interrupt his evening reading to ask a question. The father did not particularly care to be disturbed.

"Why can't you ask your mother?" he said.

"Oh," replied the boy, "I don't want to know that much about it."

516. A mother was writing to her son, congratulating him on his engagement. "My son, what glorious news. Your father and I rejoice in your happiness. It has long been our greatest wish that you should marry some good woman. A good woman is heaven's most precious gift to man. She brings out all the best in him and helps him to suppress all that is evil."

Then there was a postscript in a different handwriting: "Your mother has gone for a stamp. Stay single, you young fool."

517. A millionaire was scolding his son for indolence and lack of ambition. "Why, do you know," he said, "that when I was your age I worked ten hours a day carrying water on a construction job, and worked five hours at night washing dishes in a restaurant."

"And I'm proud of you for it, father," approved the boy warmly. "Why, if it hadn't been for your pluck and perseverance, I might have to do something like that myself."

Fishing

518. WIFE (cleaning fish in sink) TO HUSBAND: "Why can't you be like other men and not catch anything?"

519. FISHERMAN: "I tell you it was THAT long! I never saw such a fish."

FRIEND: "I believe you."

520. The two best times to fish are "right before you get there; and "right after you leave."

521. "The ability to sin differs among people," says one of our friends. "For example, a short-armed fisherman isn't as big a liar as a long-armed one."

522. GAME WARDEN: "Didn't you read that sign marked 'Private?' "

FISHERMAN: "No, I never read anything marked 'Private.'"

523. JOHNSON: "Is Nelson getting ready for the fishing season?"

SVENSON: "He must be; I saw him buying an enlarging device for his camera."

524. "How did you spend this hot weekend?"

"Fishing through the ice."

"Fishing through the ice? What for?"

"Olives."

525. A fellow in a lunatic asylum sat fishing over a flower bed. A visiting doctor, wishing to be friendly asked:

"How many have you caught?"

Answered the not-so-dumb fisherman, "You're the ninth."

526. "Been fishing, haven't you? Catch anything?"

"Yes, indeed, caught the 8:30 there and the 6:10 back. Got caught in a storm, caught cold; and boy, will I catch it when I get home!"

A Fisherman's Lament

527. A three-pound pull, and a five-pound bite; an eight-pound jump, and a ten-pound fight; a twelve-pound bend to your pole—but alas! When you get him aboard he's a half-pound bass!

528. WIFE: "How many fish was it you caught Sunday?"

MOODY: "Six, darling—all beauties."

WIFE: "I thought so. That fish shop made a mistake again. They've charged us for eight."

529. Saint Peter stopped a man who knocked at the Gates of Heaven.

"You have told too many lies to get in here," said the Keeper of the Keys.

"Have a heart, Saint Peter," said the new arrival. "You were a fisherman once yourself."

530. We'd had no bites in an entire evening of fishing. As darkness fell and we pulled toward shore we passed a couple in another rowboat. "Did you have any luck?" we called.

"No," said the young man gloomily.

"What kind of bait were you using?"

For a moment the young man was silent. Then he said: "I wasn't fishing."

531. A young lady who had returned from a tour through Italy with her father informed a friend that he liked all the Italian cities, but most of all he loved Venice.

"Ah, Venice, to be sure!" said the friend. "I can readily understand that your father would like Venice with its gondolas and St. Mark's and Tintorettos."

"Oh, no," the young lady interrupted, "it wasn't that. He liked it because he could sit in the hotel and fish from the window."

Flowers

532. Spending the night in a small western city, a tourist asked the hotel clerk, "What do you have of unusual interest in your city?"

"Well, we have the only helium plant in the world."

"Really," the tourist gasped, "and is it in bloom now?"

533. When paying a visit to the late George Bernard Shaw, a distinguished visitor expressed surprise that the author had no vase of flowers in his home.

"I thought," he said, "you were exceedingly fond of flowers."

"I am," Shaw retorted shortly. "I'm very fond of children too. But I don't cut their heads off and stick them in pots all over the house."

Forgiveness

534. During a quarrel with her husband a wife harked back to a matter which he thought had been thrashed out ages ago.

"But I understood you had forgiven me for that and had promised to forget it," he replied.

"Yes," she snapped. "I did. But I didn't promise to let you forget I'd forgiven it."

535. In his routine blessings, the six-year-old stopped before his brother's name and said to his mother: "I don't think I'll ask God to bless Cliff. He gave me an awful sock today." She gently reminded him that we should forgive our enemies. "But," he countered, "he's not my enemy, and that's what I can't forgive!" It is harder to forgive one's friends than one's enemies.

Freedom

536. I have on my table a violin string. It is free to move in any direction I like. If I twist one end, it responds; it is free. But it is not free to sing. So I take it and fix it into my violin. I bind it, and when it is bound, it is free for the first time to sing.

537. When Winston Churchill returned to London after the Boer War, he was walking through Hyde Park, famous for its soap box speakers who are given free rein to sound off. This one was denouncing Queen Victoria in no uncertain terms. Standing nearby was an English bobby. Mr. Churchill demanded, "Aren't you going to do anything? Why don't you arrest the man?"

Replied the policeman, "Well, you see, it's this way, sir. It don't 'urt er, and it might 'elp 'im."

Friendship

538. REPORTER: "Now that you are wealthy are you ever bothered by the friends you had when you were poor?"

MAN OF WEALTH: "I never had any friends when I was poor."

359. John and Jasper while touring Switzerland got caught in a sudden Alpine blizzard. They had given up hope of

being rescued when suddenly a St. Bernard dog came bounding through the snow—a cask of brandy fastened to his collar.

"Glory be," cried John. "Here comes man's best friend to the rescue."

"Aye, ye're right," said Jasper. "And look at the big dog with it."

540. Two Irishmen, occupying adjoining cells in the death house at Sing Sing, had become fast friends during their stay there, so it was a sad time when the day of Mick's execution arrived. As the guards led Mick down the last mile to the electric chair, Tim tried desperately to think of something cheerful to say.

Just before Mick disappeared through the steel doors, Tim's face lit up with an idea. "Well, Mick, me lad," he shouted, "more power to ye!"

541. Four salesmen had been talking about a mutual acquaintance who was also one of their stiffest competitors. They tore into him and ripped the poor guy to shreds. Finally in a moment of silence one salesman said, "I tell you that guy is really no good. The rest of you guys don't know him like I do."

"Oh, don't I," countered another, "I know that guy as well as any man does."

"You're nuts," snorted the first salesman. "You couldn't possibly. I'm his best friend."

542. Long after graduation from Yale, Sinclair Lewis went back for a class reunion, and the banquet speakers, hailing him as the greatest of living authors, related how, even in his undergraduate days, they had recognized his genius and had been glad to help him; then, finally, he was called upon to speak, and he stood up and said something like this:

"When I came to Yale I was a freckle faced, red haired, gangling, gawky, greenhorn from a small town in Minnesota, and all of you either ignored me or high hatted me. Now that I've been lucky enough to achieve a little noto-

riety, you've changed your tune and are trying to horn in on the act. You were not my friends then, and you're not my friends now. And as far as I'm concerned, you can all go to hell."

With that, Red Lewis walked out of the room.

Gambling

543. "He's a poor loser."

"Did you ever hear of a rich one?"

544. A western sheriff confiscated a bunch of slot machines on the basis of a law banning the use of steel traps for catching dumb animals.

Gift

545. BETTY: "I believe my husband is the most generous man in the world."

FRANCIE: "How's that?"

BETTY: "Well, I gave him a dozen of the loveliest neckties for Christmas, and he took them right down and gave them to the Salvation Army."

546. Marc Lachman, the late publicist, used to phone bare acquaintances and ask, "What size collar do you wear?" This "hint" brought him much valuable holiday loot from people who'd planned to send him a big ten-cent greeting card, providing they couldn't get one for a nickel.

On Christmas the suckers would get plain cards from Marc saying: "To Joe, the greatest guy who ever put his head in a size 15 collar."

547. While his birthday party was being planned, little Donald was asked for a list of friends he would like to invite to the party.

"I want Aunty Mills, Grandpa Smith, Uncle Dick, and Grandma Jones, and—"

"But wait a minute, Donald. Every one of those you have mentioned is an older person!" said mother.

"Well," replied Donald, "they're the only ones that ever seem to have any money."

548. CUSTOMER: "I want a gift that will make my girl's face light up, make her eyes sparkle, and rekindle the fire of love."

CLERK: "Well, if you're trying to burn her up, don't give her anything."

Giving

549. Mark Twain always wanted to be on the giving end. He once wrote Pamela: "I do not like a Christmas present that makes me feel that it hurt the giver's pocket. Such a one I could not allow to be around in sight."

550. Stopping for coffee at a small restaurant run by a blind veteran, I was amazed at the deft way he went about his business. Paying him, I handed him a dollar bill. He asked the denomination, then quickly gave me correct change. "Do you ever have trouble with people giving you ones and saying they're fives?" I asked.

"No, sir," he replied, "the only trouble I have is with people who give me fives and tell me they're ones."

551. The pastor of an impoverished parish in the hills often wrote to his bishop for aid, until the bishop demanded an end to such appeals. For a time there was no correspondence. Then one day the bishop received another letter:

"This is not an appeal," it said, "it is a report. I have no pants."

552. In a school playground not long ago, some boys were taunting a lad who regularly attended church, taunting him because his shoes were broken through. They said, "If God really loves you, why doesn't He take better care of you? Why doesn't He tell someone to send you a pair of shoes?" The boy answered, "I think He does tell somebody, but they aren't listening."

553. Anyone who says artists aren't practical people has not heard of a well-known Massachusetts painter who was solicited by his church for a sizable donation.

"I haven't any money," said the artist, "but I will give you a $200 picture."

But when all the contributions were tallied, there was still a budget deficit. The minister made a strong appeal to the congregation to increase the donations if they possibly could.

"All right," said the artist willingly. "I will do my share. I'll raise the price of the picture to $300."

554. A prosperous merchant was approached for a contribution for a charitable cause. "Yes, I will give you my mite," he responded.

"Do you mean the widow's mite?" asked his friend.

"Certainly."

"I shall be satisfied with half that much," suggested the solicitor. Approximately how much are you worth?"

"Seventy thousand dollars."

"Then," said the friend, "give me your check for $35,000: that will be half as much as the widow gave, for she gave, as you remember, 'all that she had, even all her living.' "

555. A missionary persuaded a London merchant of the great needs of his field. The merchant gave the missionary a check. In the morning the merchant learned that his business had suffered a heavy financial loss. Regretfully the missionary returned the check when the merchant requested it. Soon thereafter the missionary received a larger check. The merchant, who had torn up the first check, wrote, "God is teaching me that I must give while I can."

556. One day when Horace Greeley was busy transferring his burning thoughts to paper, a representative of the Sons of Temperance succeeded in getting into the inner sanctum.

"What is it?" growled Mr. Greeley, as he continued writing. The man told his story, pleading for a contribution.

"No," glumly responded Greeley and went on with his writing. The man continued his plea and Greeley again said no. Finally the importunate one said:

"Why, Mr. Greeley, wouldn't you give me $10 to save an immortal soul from going to hell?"

"No," shouted Greeley, "not half enough people go to hell now!"*

557. There was a very wealthy woman who lived in a palatial home, surrounded by fine tapestries, linens, imported china, expensive bric-a-brac, and who indulged in every luxury. She died and went to the gates of Heaven, but to her astonishment there was no fanfare of trumpets when she arrived. An angel was chosen to accompany her to the home that was to be her permanent abode. They passed down a beautiful street of indescribable grandeur and magnificence. Finally they came to a street of much less glamor, and way down at the end of it was a very humble little cottage. They turned to enter, and the woman stopped and looked about with tragic disappointment on her countenance. The angel said to her, "This is to be your eternal home." "Oh but," she said, "I have been accustomed only to the finest and most expensive. There are many, many beautiful homes which we passed similar to mine on earth. There must be some mistake." "Ah," said the angel, "but we built your eternal home here out of the material which you have sent us from earth, and this is the best we could do with what you have sent."

Golden Rule

558. A six-year-old and her four-year-old brother had a difference of opinion which finally led to blows.

"Children! Children!" exclaimed their mother. "Haven't you heard of the Golden Rule?"

"Yes," sputtered the six-year-old, "but he did unto me first."

559. A mother happening one day to overhear a group of little girls excitedly concocting a scheme of revenge against another little girl, who had apparently done something very "mean," was grieved to find her own child among the chief conspirators.

"Why, my dear!" she said, taking her child aside, "it seems to me you're going to do to Lottie just what you don't want her to do to you. I don't think this is the Golden Rule—is it?"

"Well, mamma," said the child, "the Golden Rule is all right for Sunday, but for everyday I'd rather have an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth!"

Golf

560. GOLFER: "Notice any improvement today, Jimmy?"

CADDIE: "Yes, sir. You've had your hair cut, sir."

561. GOLFER (dubbing a shot); "I'm certainly not playing the game I usually play."

CADDIE: "What game is that, sir?"

562. A well-known golfer, losing his temper one day, shouted at a friend: "Shut up. You'll drive me out of my mind!"

"That wouldn't be a drive, it would be a putt," his friend replied calmly.

563. "You think so much of your darn golf game that you don't even remember the day we were married!"

"I do, too! That's the day I sank a 40-foot putt!"

564. NEIGHBOR: "How is your husband getting on with his golf?"

WIFE: "Very well, indeed. The children are allowed to watch him now."

565. "Caddie, sir?" inquired the boy.

"Yes," replied the golfer, "but I'm playing for the cup, and I want a boy who can count and keep the score. What's four and five and three come to?"

"Eleven, sir."

"Good! You'll do."

566. Someone asked: "What kind of man is he?"

The answer was: "In a foursome he is the sort of fellow who is interested only in his own ball and never helps look for the lost ball of a companion player."

567. The woman golfer faced a downhill lie five yards short of a wide stream. "What club do you think I should use?" she asked her partner. "A seven," came the reply. The lady looked at the scene again—the ball, the stream, distant green. "No, I think I'll play it safe," she said. "I'll just carry it across." And she did.

568. "How long have you been playing golf?" the old club member asked the stranger on the fourth tee.

"Oh, about three months," the stranger replied.

"Well, you certainly play a very good game."

"I ought to," the stranger sighed. "It took me four years to learn."

569. The visiting golfer paid his fee, got himself a partner and strode to the first tee. Taking his stance, he swung mightily—but missed the ball completely. In a moment, however, he had recovered from his surprise. "By Jove," he said to his opponent, "this darned course is at least two inches lower than the ones I've been playing on."

570. Two dub golfers stood on the first tee. No. 1 stepped up and hit a tremendous slice. His ball bounced off the roof of a refreshment stand, hit a water fountain, nicked a tree, ricocheted off a mower, struck a fairway marker, skipped across a pond, skidded through a trap, rolled across the green and wobbled into the cup. Hole in one!

"See," said No. 2, teeing up. "I told you this was an easy course."

571. Two inveterate golf cronies who had played every Saturday for 10 years, were putting on a green near a highway when a funeral procession approached. One of the pair removed his hat and held it over his heart as the cortege passed.

"That's mighty respectful of you," his partner remarked.

"It's the least I can do," the other replied. "We would have celebrated our fortieth anniversary today."

572. The hysterical golfer rushed into the clubhouse shouting that he had just killed his wife. "I didn't know she was behind me," he sobbed. "I started my back swing and the club hit her on the head. She was dead before she hit the ground."

"What club were you using?"

"The No. 2 iron."

"Oh, oh," murmured the other, "that's the club that always gets me in trouble, too."

573. Two male golfers were highly annoyed by a pair of female duffers on the links in front of them. The women stopped to chat, picked flowers, admired the scenery and generally made life miserable for the players following.

At one point, the two men stood on a tee for nearly 25 minutes while one of the women apparently looked for her ball a few yards down the fairway.

"Why don't you help your friend find her ball?" one of the indignant golfers finally shouted to the second woman, who stood watching her companion search.

"Oh, she's got her ball," the woman replied sweetly. "She's looking for her club."

Gossip

574. "I've heard a great deal about you."

"Possibly, but you can't prove it."

575. When a woman says: "There is something you ought to hear," you may be sure that it is something she ought not to tell.

576. "Daddy, why do the ladies bring their knitting when they come to see mommy?"

"It gives them something to think about while they're talking."

577. A woman wrote to a daily paper from a very lonely spot as follows: "My sister and I aren't exactly lonely out here. We have each other to talk to. But we need another woman to talk about."

578. Gossips have been catalogued in three different types: The vest-button-type—always popping off; the vacuum cleaner type—always picking up the dirt; the liniment type—always rubbing it in.

579. A schoolteacher wishing to emphasize the effects of gossip drew a geometrical design on a piece of paper, showed it to a pupil. He was to look at the design for 10 seconds, attempt to draw a duplicate, which he showed to the pupil next to him. When the last pupil finished and compared his design with the original, the teacher's point had been most effectively made.

Government

580. CONTRACTOR: "How do those government experts estimate the cost of living?"

PIPE PEDDLER: "They figure your income and add 25 per cent."

581. Two tourists were standing in front of a home in Washington watching big name government officials emerge from a party.

One Congressman had imbibed a little too freely and was slightly tipsy when he left.

"I presume," said one tourist to the other "that is what is referred to as a high government official."

582. Two men were working on the White House lawn in Washington. Each had a small trash can on rollers and was walking about picking up bits of paper with a pointed stick. As one spied a piece and was about to stab it, a sudden gust of wind came and blew the paper into the White House through an open window. Frantically the man rushed inside the building. He returned shortly afterward and said to his companion: "I was too late. He had already signed it."

Gratitude

583. A lady, waiting for a bus, noticed the gentleman shuffling by. Obviously, he had seen better days. Tempering her charity with tact, she stooped as though to pick something up, then said, "Pardon me, did you drop this?" She held out a quarter.

"What do ya know?" said the man, taking the proffered coin and tipping his hat. "A lot of people would have kept that for themselves."

584. A little girl approached a great concert violinist after his performance and he was leaving the concert hall and asked him for his autograph. "I'm sorry," said the maestro but my hands are so very tired from playing."

"My hands are tired, too," said the little girl," and they're tired from applauding."

585. The priest was trying to confort one of his parishioners.

"Mr. Kelly," he said, "you shouldn't be bitter. You must be thankful."

"Thankful!" exclaimed Kelly. "Just what have I to be thankful for, I ask you? I can't even pay my bills."

The priest thought for a bit, then said brightly: "Why, man alive, be thankful you aren't one of your creditors."

586. The other night a man in London gave an open air lecture. At the conclusion he said that, with the per-

mission of the crowd, he would send his hat around, and would be thankful for some little encouragement.

The hat passed around, and came back to him empty. He gave a sigh, and then said, "Well, when I come to look at what I've been talking to, all I have to say is, "Thank goodness, I've got my hat back!' "

Guilt

587. SMALL BOY: "Mummy!"

MUMMY: "Yes, darling?"

SMALL BOY: "Do you know the beautiful vase in the drawing-room, that's been handed down from generation to generation?"

MUMMY: "Yes, darling, what about it?"

SMALL BOY: "Well, the last generation has dropped it."

588. In Ohio a man was arrested on a charge of horse theft and was duly indicted and brought to trial. When his day in court came he was taken before the judge and the prosecuting attorney solemnly read the charge in the indictment to him.

The prosecuting attorney put the question: "Are you guilty or not guilty?"

The man rolled uneasily in his chair. "Well, sir," he finally said, "isn't that the very thing we're about to try to find out?"

Habit—Habits

589. "Why do you work in a dynamite factory?"

"I want to make myself quit smoking!"

590. A man walked into a restaurant and sat down at a table. "What will you have sir?" asked the waiter.

The customer shook his head. "Not a thing," he replied. "I'm not hungry."

The waiter stared. "Then what's the idea," he grumbled, "of coming in here?"

The customer shrugged his shoulders. "It's very simple," he explained. "This is my lunch hour."

591. A blind horse was the motor power of a carding mill. Hour after hour, day after day, week after week, the blind horse walked in a circle some thirty feet in diameter. In a pasture where the horse was turned to graze, one would see circles about the same circumference as that where the horse walked in pulling the machinery. So long had it walked in a circle that when left free in the open it walked in a circle and grazed in a circle.

592. A young fellow who was an inveterate cigarette smoker went to the country for a vacation. Reaching the small town in the early morning, he wanted a smoke, but there was no store open. He saw a boy smoking a cigarette, and approached him, saying:

"Say, my boy, have you got another cigarette?"

"No, sir," said the boy, "but I've got the makings."

"All right," the city chap said. "But I can't roll 'em very well. Will you fix one for me?"

"Sure," said the boy.

"Don't believe I've got a match," said the man, as he searched his pockets.

The boy handed him a match.

"Say," the boy said, "you ain't got anything but the habit, have you?"

593. The old clothes dealer was making his rounds door-to-door finally reaching the outer gate of a secluded convent. When the Mother Superior answered the doorbell he politely asked, "My dear lady, do you have any dirty habits you'd like to get rid of?"

Handicap

594. "What is your handicap, Bill?" the golfer was asked.

"A wife and two children," was the reply.

Happiness

595. "I notice," the judge commented, "that in addition to stealing this money, you took a lot of valuable jewelry."

"Yes, your honor," said the prisoner cheerfully. "You see, my mother taught me from childhood that money alone does not bring happiness.

596. Breathlessly the spiritualistically inclined lady bent over the ouija spelling out the communications from her departed spouse.

"John, are you happy there?" she asked.

"Yes, d-e-a-r."

"Are you happier than you were on the earth."

"Yes, d-e-a-r."

"Ah," she breathed. "Heaven must be a wonderful place."

"I g-u-e-s-s s-o, b-u-t I-m n-o-t t-h-e-r-e y-e-t."

Helpfulness

597. HOUSEWIFE: "What is the matter with you people? I ordered a dozen oranges and you only sent me ten."

PRODUCE CLERK: "It is part of our service, ma'am. Two were bad, so we saved you the trouble of throwing them away."

598. A woman was seated next to a middle-aged man, a stranger, in a large church. It was extremely warm; suddenly the man seemed to slump to the floor. The woman instantly knelt beside him.

"Put your head between your knees," she whispered urgently. "You'll feel better if the blood can get to your head." Putting her hand on the back of his head, she pushed it down.

"Please, lady," he snapped. "I'm trying to get my hat."

599. One day an old umbrella-mender knocked at the back door; and we gave him a job. As he mended the

broken and torn umbrella, he seemed to take unusual pains, testing the cloth, carefully measuring and strongly sewing the covers, so we remarked:

"You seem unusually careful."

"Yes," he said without looking up. "I try to do good work."

"But," we suggested, "your customers would not know the difference until you were gone . . . Perhaps you expect to come back this way again some day?"

"No, I shall probably not come back."

"Then why are you so particular?"

"So it will be easier for the man who follows me," he answered simply. "If I put on shoddy cloth or do bad work, my customers will find it out in a few weeks, and the next old umbrella-mender who comes along will get the cold shoulder."

Honesty. See *Integrity*

Honeymoon

600. If you want to fool the people in the hotel lobby when you are honeymooning, let your bride carry the luggage.

601. "Why do you insist on sitting up at the window and looking out all night?" demanded the groom of his bride in their bridal suite.

"Because mother told me that my wedding night would be the most beautiful in my entire life, and I don't want to miss any part," explained the bride.

602. They were anxious not to be recognized as newlyweds, so before they went into the hotel the wife took off her corsage and he carefully shook off the last bits of rice. Then, sure that no one would ever suspect that they had just been married in the afternoon, they walked up to the desk and he said with studied casualness, "I'd like a double bed with room, please."

603. That a visit to the pawnbroker may actually be a profitable transaction was proved by the young Irishman who walked into a London pawnshop, pawned a valuable camera and went across to the other counter to buy a wedding ring.

The next day he returned with his bride, pawned the ring, redeemed the camera, went outside and photographed her in her wedding dress.

Two hours later the couple came back, pawned the camera and the wedding dress, then departed on their honeymoon.

Horse racing

604. Race horse: the only animal that can take several thousand people for a ride at the same time.

605. In the good old days when you wanted a horse to stand still, you tied him to a hitching-post. Today you place a bet on him.

606. Then there was the chap who went to the horse races, made a "mental bet" and lost his mind.

607. "Do you know what happens to the horses I follow?"

"No, what?"

"They follow the other horses."

608. "It was sweet of you, Richard, to back the horse because it had the same name as me."

"It had the same habits, too. Came in half an hour late!"

609. It is a known fact that many race horses are not allowed to eat the day before a race. With the bettors, it's usually the day after.

610. THE OWNER: "I think I'll call that filly 'Bad News.'"

TRAINER: "Whatever for?"

THE OWNER: "Because 'Bad News' travels quickest."

611. BOSS: "I thought you were ill yesterday, Jones."

JONES: "I was, sir."

BOSS: "You didn't look very sick when I saw you at the race track."

JONES: "You should have seen me after the fourth race."

612. "Does your husband understand horse racing?"

"From beginning to end. The day before a race he knows which horse must win, and the day after he knows exactly why it didn't."

613. Two men were commenting on a friend's bad luck at the horse race. "Funny," said one, "how Ed is so lucky at cards but does so badly at the track."

"Funny nothing," retorted the other. "They don't let him shuffle the horses."

614. The seedy man looked exceptionally sad. "Chin up," said a cheerful old lady as she passed by and gave him a quarter.

The following day he saw the same old lady on the street and sidled up to her. Handing her a ten spot he said, "Nice pickin', lady. Chin Up paid 40 to one yesterday at Belmont."

615. Just before the seventh race, one of the gamblers saw them go into a huddle and decided he would try to get a winner. He leaned over and said politely: "You ladies have been doing quite well, haven't you?"

"Oh, yes," they beamed. "We've won every race."

The man looked around cautiously, then whispered, "Would you mind giving me your system?"

"Oh, we have a lot of systems," said one, twinkling. "Today, though, we're betting on the longest tails."

616. A mild-mannered minister accepted the call to a church where many of the town's residents bred horses, and sometimes raced them. A few weeks later he was asked to invite the prayers of the congregation for Lucy Gray. Willingly and gladly he did so for three weeks. On the fourth Sunday one of the deacons told him that he need not do it any longer.

"Why?" asked the good minister with an anxious look. "Is she dead?"

"Oh, no," replied the deacon, "she won the Steeple-chase yesterday."

617. All horse players worthy of the name follow hunches. One race track classic is the story of the perfect inspiration which came to a bettor the time he visited the track on his birthday, the fifth day of the fifth month. On the program he found a horse named Quintuplets, in the fifth race and in the fifth position. At the five-dollar window he bought five tickets on her and settled back affably to collect on his "sure thing." Quintuplets did not spoil his perfect hunch. She came in fifth!

Hotel

618. HE: "What was the name of the hotel we stopped at in Detroit?"

SHE: "Wait, I'll look through my towels."

619. TOURIST (to hotel clerk): "Are those rooms of yours quiet?"

ROOM CLERK: "Of course, they are. It's the people in them who are noisy."

620. TELEGRAM RECEIVED BY A MIDWESTERN HOTEL: "Do you have suitable accommodations where I can put up with my wife?"

621. "There's a rat in the room," shrieked the lady over the phone.

"Then you better have him come right down and register," ordered the hotel night clerk.

622. One hotel manager cut down on pilferage after a convention by announcing to a lobby full of departing guests that a search would be made for a missing diamond necklace. Many guests had to hustle back to their rooms to get rid of towels, bath mats, ash trays and stationery!

623. A hotel guest who had sneaked away without paying his tab received a very cordial letter from the manager which read: "Dear sir, will you kindly send us the amount of your bill, and oblige?"

A week later he got this reply: "The amount of my bill was $172.50. Best regards."

624. As the salesman registered in the small hotel, he noticed a mosquito crawling across the register.

"I've been in a lot of hotels," said the salesman, "but this is the first time they ever came down to see which room I was getting."

625. A man found bedbugs in his bed and as he checked out of the hotel complained about them to the manager. Several days later he received a cordial letter explaining that no matter how careful they were, things like this happened every once in a while. They thanked him for calling it to their attention and hoped he would accept their apology. And he would have too, except that somebody had forgotten to detach a little slip that said, "Send this character the bedbug letter."

Hunting

626. WOMAN (talking on phone): "Harry had good luck on his hunting trip—he got back alive."

627. A father was telling his son what a good shot he was and probably exaggerated the truth. However, to prove his point, he took the boy out duck hunting with him one day. Ducks were scarce but finally a lone duck flew overhead and the father took careful aim and fired. The duck kept right on going. Turning to the boy, Dad said: "Son, you've just witnessed a miracle. There flies a dead duck."

Husband-Wife

628. Many a wife has turned an old rake into a lawn mower.

629. Husbands are like motor cars; all are good the first year.

630. The best way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.

631. Many a man would like to drown his troubles but he can't get his wife to go swimming.

632. What annoys a man when his wife has nothing to say is the nasty way she doesn't say it.

633 "Why do you call him your hydramatic husband?"

"Because he's shiftless."

634. When a man says that he sees eye to eye with his wife, it means that his vision has been corrected.

635. A man's wife may not be the only woman he ever loved, but she's the only woman who made him prove it.

636. WOMAN (trying on mink coat) TO SALESGIRL: "If my husband doesn't like it, will you promise to refuse to take it back?"

637. Husband Jones can always find the liquor, no matter where his wife hides it. He has a fifth sense.

638. A wife laughs at her husband's jokes not because they are clever but because she is.

639. FARMER (to druggist): "Now do be sure and write plain on those bottles which is for the cow and which is for my wife. I wouldn't want anything to happen to that Jersey cow."

640. When a man and woman marry they become one. The trouble starts when they try to decide which one.

641. "My husband won't walk under a ladder, he's always touching wood, and he refuses to go to work on any week that's got a Friday in it."

642. A new automobile has been designed to be driven from the back seat. And lots of husbands will rise to inquire: "What's new about that?"

643. HUSBAND: "We had a drinking competition at the club last night, dear."

WIFE: "Yeah? Who came out second?"

644. ANGRY WIFE: "What would you men have today if woman had never been created?"

PLACID HUSBAND: "One more rib."

645. HE: "Darling, if I had to do it all over again, I'd marry you."

SHE: "That's what you think."

646. "Has your wife changed very much since you married her?"

"And how! My habits, my friends, my hours—"

647. WIFE: "A letter came for you today marked 'private and personal.'"

HUSBAND: "What did it say?"

648. "How did the accident happen?" the officer asked the dazed man who was sitting behind the wheel.

The driver was silent for a moment, then pointed toward the back seat. "Wife fell asleep," he said.

649. Most men have two sides—the one that their wives know, and the side they think that their wives don't know.

650. Nowadays a husband and wife either have to have minds that run in the same channels or two television sets.

651. Shame on the husband who said he and his wife had to leave a party because she was so tired she could hardly keep her mouth open.

652. "Henry," said his nagging wife as he got ready for bed, "is everything shut up for the night?"

"Everything else is," Henry muttered.

653. "Things are awful at our house. I have a fight with my husband every month."

"Same way at our house, except that my husband gets paid each week."

654. "How is your wife getting on, pat?"

"Well, sometimes she's better and sometimes she's worse. But from her goin's on when she's better, I often think that she's better when she's worse."

655. DOCTOR: "Tell your wife not to worry about that slight deafness as it is simply an indication of advancing years."

HUSBAND: "You tell her."

656. "It's not true that I married a millionaire. I made him one."

"What was he before you married him?"

"A multi-millionaire."

657. HUSBAND: "Let's have some fun this evening!"

WIFE: "Okay, but leave the light on in the hallway, just in case you get home before I do."

658. HUSBAND: "You've exceeded the family budget again this month."

WIFE: "Dear, let's just forget our budget and go in debt like the government does."

659. "The evidence shows, Mrs. Jones, that you threw a soup plate at your husband."

"It shows more than that, your honor. It shows that I hit him."

660. Many a wife has wondered, after listening to her husband pontificating on banking and economics, how anyone could know so much about money and have so little of it.

661. "You look downcast."

"Yep. My wife was away six weeks and I wrote her every week and said I spent all my evenings at home. She's back now, and the light bill came in. It's for 50 cents."

662. BRIDE: "What do you do with a husband that wants to be the boss around the house?"

EXPERIENCED WIFE: "Just tell him you're the union. Does he want to negotiate or does he want a strike?"

663. Two women were gossiping. Said one, "What I say is—give a man enough rope and he'll hang himself!"

"Oh, I don't agree," said the other. "I gave my husband enough rope and he skipped."

664. HUSBAND: "It says here in the paper that the silly woman can manage a clever man, but it takes a very clever woman to manage a fool."

WIFE: "Why, thank you, dear. That's the nicest compliment I've had today."

665. WIFE: "The paper says school teachers make the best wives. I wonder why that is?"

HUSBAND: "Probably because they have learned to ask questions and keep quiet long enough to hear the answer."

666. "For months," said Mrs. Gadabout, "I couldn't discover where my husband spent his evenings."

"And then what happened?" breathlessly asked her friend.

"Well," she said, "one evening I went home and there he was."

667. "What's the matter with Jones? He looks glum."

"He's been contesting his wife's will."

"I didn't know she was dead."

"That's just it. She isn't."

668. "Have you seen a man waiting around here a little impatiently?" asked the woman of a store clerk. "I was to meet my husband."

"What does he look like?"

"Well, by now, he'll look purple," she replied.

669. A convention delegate was asked in a television interview why he never took his wife with him when he went away, replied:

"I have two reasons: it's half the cost—and twice the fun."

670. "You low-grade idiot," snarled the wife at the peak of a long fuss. "I'm sick to death of you—I'm going to get a divorce!"

"You're just saying that," replied the husband, "to make me feel good."

671. A middle-aged gentleman dropped by the perfume counter, picked up a sample atomizer and gave himself a couple of squirts.

With a wink at the surprised saleslady, he remarked, "Like to keep my wife guessing," and went on his way.

672. The wives of two prominent manufacturers were talking things over in the lobby of a hotel.

"Does your husband confide his business troubles to you?" asked one.

"Oh, yes, indeed," replied the other. "Every time I come home with a new dress."

673. A friend of ours took his wife to a doctor. The medic jammed a thermometer in her mouth. "Now," he said, "keep your mouth shut for five minutes."

Our friend gazed at the tiny glass tube in fascination. "How much," he asked, "will you take for that thing, Doc?"

674. An old lady went to a tombstone cutter's office to order a stone for her husband's grave. After explaining that she wanted no frills, just a small stone, she told him to put the words, "To My Husband," in a suitable place.

Upon delivery, to her horror, she saw the words:

"To My Husband. In a Suitable Place."

675. "The greatest man who ever lived—broad-minded, tolerant, generous, patient, temperate, brilliant—died with all his talents unsuspected," announced one friend to another.

"In that case, how did you manage to find out so much about him?" he was asked.

"I married his widow."

676. A woman waiting at the door ready to go to the store had her arms full of coats and four little children at her side.

Her husband, coming down the stairs, asked why she was standing there. She replied, handing him the coats, "This time you put the children's coats on and I'll go honk the horn."

677. A chap most suddenly and unexpectedly found himself at the Golden Gates with St. Peter there to welcome him.

"My goodness," he exclaimed, "how did I manage to get to this place?"

"Don't you remember?" said the saint gently. "Your wife said, 'Be an angel and let me drive.'"

678. A depressed-looking fellow strolled into a grillroom around lunch hour. The waiter bustled up.

"What will you have, sir? Some cold shoulder?"

"No, thanks; I had that this morning."

"Well, then, tongue, sir?"

"No, thanks; I'll get that tonight."

679. Two natives of a little New England village met on the street one afternoon, and after a long discussion about hunting, fishing and the local crop situation, one of them said:

"Say, how's your better half?"

The other man looked at his questioner with disdain in his eyes.

"She's all right," he exclaimed, "but look here, man, you're sure mighty careless with your fractions."

680. A harassed husband never seemed to be able to please his complaining wife. At Christmas time she bought him two ties, one bright green, the other a brilliant yellow. He thanked her profusely, and on World Series day decided to risk his friends' ridicule and to try to please her by wearing one of them. He chose the green one and came down to breakfast. As he came into

the room she looked up and said, "Oh! So you don't like the yellow one!"

681. A husband drew up his chair beside his wife's sewing machine. "Don't you think you're running too fast?" he asked. "Look out! You'll sew the wrong seams. Slow down, watch your fingers! Steady!"

"What's the matter with you, John?" said his wife in alarm. "I've been using this machine for years."

"Well, dear, I thought you might like me to help you, since you help me drive the car."

682. Sitting in the lobby of a summer resort hotel, a lady drew a small piece of paper from an envelope, gazed at it and said: "My husband writes that he's feeling grand, business is good and that he loves me very much."

"All that on such a small piece of paper?" her friend asked.

"Yes, You see, it's a check for $200.00."

683. "I am afraid, doctor," said Mrs. Brown, "that my husband has some terrible mental affliction. Sometimes I talk to him for hours and then discover that he hasn't heard a word."

"That isn't an affliction, madam," was the weary reply. "That's a gift."

684. Obviously upset, a young wife called up a friend and told her that she and her husband had quarreled and that he'd left her.

"Now don't worry too much about it," the friend told her soothingly. "He's done that before, you know."

"I know," said the wife, her voice breaking. "But this time he took the bowling ball."

685. This is a story that Sam Levenson tells. It concerns a gentleman who quarreled with his wife and moved out to a hotel. All day he brooded, but by dinner time he was hungry and sorry, so he called her.

"Hello, Sarah. What are you making for dinner?"

"Poison I'm making."

"So make only one portion. I'm not coming home."

686. The staff controller was interviewing a man for a job as night watchman. After a while he said: "Frankly, I don't really think you'd suit us. We want an energetic type who's always on the alert, keeping continual watch, scouting around all over the place, listening for every sound, ready to pounce at any moment. Between ourselves, you hardly answer that description."

"That's all right, guv'nor," answered the applicant. "I know the very person for you. I'll send you my wife."

687. The minister asked for anyone who knew a truly perfect person to stand up. After a long pause a meek-looking fellow in the back stood up.

"Do you really know a perfect person?" the minister asked.

"Yes, sir, I do," answered the little man.

"Won't you please tell the congregation who this rare perfect person is?" pursued the preacher.

"Yes, sir. It was my wife's first husband."

688. A woman went into the office of a cemetery manager and complained, "I can't find my husband's grave. I know he's buried here."

"What is the name?" the manager asked.

"Thomas Jackson," she replied.

Referring to his card index, the manager said, "Madam, we have no Thomas Jackson. We just have an Elizabeth Jackson."

"That's him," she said. "Everything's in my name."

689. At a Kiwanis luncheon in Cleveland, the speaker, a representative of a large hosiery concern, said he wished to present nylons to each member to give to his wife. Members were asked for their wives' sizes.

After they'd given the sizes, a change in the plan was announced. Instead of giving them to the Kiwanians, the speaker planned to deliver them directly to the wives. Six members stepped up and each one said, "Change my wife's size from $8\frac{1}{2}$ to 10."

690. One day the Queen (it was Queen Victoria) lost her temper. Her husband, Prince Albert, wordlessly went to his room and locked himself in. The outraged Victoria stalked after him and pounded: "I demand you open this door!" There was no answer. She rapped again, furiously. "Who is there?" shouted Albert. "The Queen of England!" The door remained shut. She rapped again, this time uncertainly. Still no answer. After a while, she whispered meekly, "It's your wife, Albert." Albert instantly opened the door, his face wreathed in smiles.

691. Old Uncle Jacob was walking majestically up and down the village street dressed in his Sunday best.

"Hello, Uncle Jacob," cried one of his neighbors. "Are you having a holiday?"

"Yes, I am," replied Uncle Jacob, proudly. "I'm celebrating my golden wedding."

"Then why isn't your wife celebrating it with you?" said the man.

"She ain't got aught to do with it," replied Uncle Jacob indignantly, "she's the fourth."

692. A Des Moines businessman had to go to New York to attend a conference. His wife stated her desire to accompany him.

"But I'll be tied up nearly all the time," he protested. "You wouldn't enjoy going at all."

"Oh, yes, I would," said his wife. "I'll spend my time buying clothes."

"What, go all the way to New York for a few clothes? That's silly—you can buy everything you want right here in Des Moines!"

"Oh, good," she cried. "That's just what I hoped you'd say!"

693. Tired of being a widower, Farmer Smith went into town, picked out a wife, married her, turned Dobbin around and drove homeward.

Dobbin stumbled: "That's once," said the farmer. A little later, the horse stumbled again. "That's twice," said the farmer. When Dobbin stumbled again, he said, "That's three times," and pulled out his gun and shot the horse dead.

"You heartless brute," screamed his bride slapping him hard on the face.

He looked at her a moment, then said, "That's once!"

694. Every payday the tight-fisted wife met her husband at the door. Meekly he handed over his pay envelope. Carefully she counted $1.65 and returned it to him to buy cigarettes.

One evening he came bursting through the door, trembling with excitement and shouting out: "Bertha! Bertha! I did it! You won't believe it, but I did it!"

"Did what?" she asked suspiciously.

"I won! I won a lottery. I won $50,000! It's true! $50,000!"

She looked at him coolly and searchingly, straight in the eye.

"And where," she demanded, "did you get the money for the ticket?"

695. It was Sunday morning and the bleary-eyed husband, tired but determined, crept downstairs to the kitchen. In a short while he returned, carrying a breakfast tray which he carefully set down on the bed before his wife. She was delighted.

"Darling, what a wonderful surprise," she cried. "The tray is beautiful and the food looks delicious."

"Then you noticed just what I've done?" he asked.

"Of course, dear, every detail. Why?"

"Because," said the husband briskly, "this is exactly how I want my breakfast served every morning from now on."

696. Paderewski, the great Polish pianist, was seated next to Mrs. Dwight W. Morrow at a dinner. She was the wife of the ambassador to Mexico in the Coolidge ad-

ministration. In the course of their conversation, she told him how she enjoyed his concerts when a girl in school. He asked if she enjoyed going back to visit her alma mater. She replied that she did, and when back at school could not help thinking how much the happiness in her life had exceeded her fondest expectations.

"You mean to tell me you are happier now than you thought at 18 you would be?" Paderewski asked, keenly interested.

"Yes, indeed!" Mrs. Morrow answered.

"Mrs. Morrow," said Paderewski, with a deep old-world bow, "I would like to meet your husband."

697. A Frenchman was celebrating his 25th wedding anniversary. There was a big party and all his friends were invited. But the host was nowhere to be found. A friend went in search of him and found the host in the library drinking a brandy and staring into the fire

"Pierre," the friend said, "it's your 25th wedding anniversary. You should be happy and celebrating, out with your guests. Why are you so sad?"

"Francois," the husband said, "when I had been married for five years I decided to kill my wife. I went to my lawyer and told him what I was going to do. He told me if I did it I would get 20 years in prison."

"Just think, Francois, tonight I would have been a free man."

698. The obviously well-heeled gentleman stepped onto the street from a New Orleans bistro and was accosted by a battered wreck of a man who pleaded, "Gimme a quarter for something to eat."

"Have a cigar," said the gentleman.

"Don't smoke," asserted the bum. "I just want a quarter for something to eat."

"Come inside with me," suggested the gentleman, "and I'll stand you to a couple of drinks. They'll back you up!"

"Don't drink," was the answer. "It's food I want."

"Tell you what," said the gentleman, "I'm going to the races tomorrow. I'll place a couple of bets for you on sure things."

"No, no," cried the bum. "I'd sooner die than gamble. Just slip me two bits for something to eat."

"All right, if you insist," conceded the gentleman reluctantly. "But first you've got to come over and meet my wife. I want her to see what happens to a guy who doesn't smoke, drink, or gamble."

699. A Hollywood producer, reduced to making pictures on a shoestring, had a script calling for a fight between two men on the street. The wily producer discussed the scene with his star. "Jack," he said, "see that couple waiting for the bus? Go over and start insulting the woman. When her husband gets mad enough to punch you, we'll start the cameras. Okay, get going."

The actor approached the couple. "Good day, sir," he said. "Is this your wife?"

"That's right," was the answer.

"What a hag!" roared the actor, getting ready for the first punch. "Why, most men would be ashamed to be seen with her!"

There was an ominous silence. Then the man turned to his wife. "See?" he demanded. "What have I been telling you all these years?"

700. A notorious poker addict, always in a jam with his wife over his all-night poker sessions, was on his way home from the office the other night when he ran into an old flame. As she still looked mighty attractive to him, he invited her into a near-by cocktail lounge for a drink. What with one thing and another, time crept up on them, and it was well towards morning when he walked into his house and came face to face with his wife.

"Well," she snapped, "*now* what's your alibi?" There was an embarrassed pause. Then the man decided to give it to her straight. "Honey, I'm sorry," he said, "but it

was just one of those things. I ran into an old girl friend and we had a drink, and before we knew it, it was 3 A.M. Well, I had to take her home, and—"

"Okay, okay!" interrupted his wife impatiently. "How much did you lose tonight?"

701. "Good afternoon, sir, may I help you?"

"He'd like a new suit."

"Of course, madam, right this way. Now is there any particular color you had in mind, sir?"

"Something dark. He needs something dignified."

"Certainly madam. Now here's a dark blue—in a 42. That's your size, isn't it, sir?"

"He takes a 44."

"Yes, yes, I see, madam. Well, here's a medium blue that's very popular right now. It's—"

"Too light."

"Of course, madam. What about this gray, sir? You'd really look sharp in this. It'll make you look like a regular Casanova."

"It's too young for him."

"Oh, I don't—yes, yes, madam, you're right. Maybe this charcoal. It's very reserved, sir. Just the thing for a man who doesn't like to stand out."

"Fine. He'll take it."

"You're making a wise choice. Now, let's see—that'll be $87.37, madam."

"Don't talk to me. Talk to him. He's buying the suit."

702. Two Swedes from Minneapolis, happening to meet on the train one day, indulged in this bit of dialogue:

"Hello, Ole! How you bane?"

"Pretty good. I bane got married."

"Dot's good."

"Not so good. My wife she have nine children."

"Dot's bad."

"Not so bad. She have a million dollars too."

"Dot's good."

"Not so good. She won't spend it."

"Dot's bad."

"Not so bad. My wife she's got a fine house, I don't pay no rent."

"Dot's good."

"Not so good. The house she burned down yesterday."

"Dot's bad."

"Not so bad. My wife she ban burnt up in fire."

"Dot's good."

"Yah, dot's good."

Identification

703. The police sent out pictures of an escaped convict in six different poses. A constable sent the following wire: "Have captured five of them and on trail of the sixth."

704. A man was to meet a missionary at a railway station. Since the visitor was unknown to him, he asked a friend for a description. "Oh, you will know him all right," said the friend. "He'll be helping someone off the train."

705. An operator was asked to place a call to a state prison official in Huntsville, Texas. "Do you know his number?" she asked innocently.

"He doesn't have a number," came the dry response. He's a warden there."

706. "Hunting is getting dangerous around these parts," said the husband, looking up from his paper. "Here's a guy who was shot for a moose by mistake." His wife snapped back: "Anybody who can be mistaken for a moose is better off dead."

707. As Walter Hampden, the distinguished actor, was bending over to open his box in the post office in Ridgefield, Connecticut, a woman tapped him on the shoulder and said, "How are you today, John?" To her surprise

it was not her friend who turned around, and she exclaimed in embarrassment, "Oh, I thought you were someone else!"

"But I so often am," replied Hampden with a smile.

708. A woman approached the pearly gates and spoke to Saint Peter. "Do you know if my husband is here; his name is Smith."

"Lady, we have lots of them here. You'll have to be more specific."

"Joe Smith."

"Lots of those, too. You'll have to have more identification."

"Well, when he died he said that if I was ever untrue to him he'd turn over in his grave."

"Oh, you mean 'Pinwheel' Smith."

709. An Englishman visiting his son, during his first year at Cambridge University, was being taken on a tour of the place by the boy. As they were walking along, a very formidable looking woman strode by, nodded briefly and went on.

"That's Miss Ekhart," explained the youth. "She's the mistress of Ridsley Hall."

His father shook his head unbelievingly. "And who," he asked, "is Ridsley Hall?"

710. An American in London, at a very chi-chi cocktail party, saw a pretty girl whom he recognized—but couldn't place. He walked over to her and said, "How nice it is to see you again," to which she replied, "Why thank you, sir."

This didn't help much so he said, "How is your mother?" to which the pretty girl replied, "She's fine, thank you." This didn't help either, so the embarrassed American said, "How's your brother?" to which the pretty girl replied, "Why, I'm sorry, but I have no brother."

In a panic, the American said, "Well, then, how is your sister?" to which the pretty girl replied:

"She's still Queen."

711. She walked into a bank on upper Broadway and pushed a check through the paying-teller's window.

"You will have to be identified," said he. "I don't know you madam."

"You don't eh?" said the woman, with fire in her eyes. "Aren't you the father of the Smith family that has a flat in the Pileremin Apartments?"

"Yes."

"Well, I am the red-headed janitress that your wife's always complaining about. When you left home this morning I heard you say: 'Emily, if our children get fighting with that old fury in the basement, don't quarrel with her. Wait till I get home, and let me talk to her.' Now, if you think you can get the best of an argument with—"

"Here's your money, madam," said the paying-teller.

Identity

712. "Who was the man Madge brought to the party?"

"An archaeologist."

"Where on earth did she dig him up?"

713. When Alfred Vanderbilt was elected President of the Thoroughbred Racing Association, he made a tour of all the leading tracks in the country to inspect the plants and racing conditions. Arriving in Lexington, Kentucky, he found a big sign strung across Main Street that read, "Welcome Vanderbilt." "Boy," he said appreciatively, "they sure take their horse racing seriously in this town." "Shucks, Al," his host informed him, "that sign isn't for you. Kentucky's football team is playing Vanderbilt University here tomorrow."

Importance

714. A lady was somewhat disturbed to find herself seated at the left of her host instead of at the right, where she thought she should have been. "I suppose," she

said, "it isn't always easy for you to seat people in their proper places."

"Oh," said the host, "I find that those who matter don't mind and those who mind don't matter."

715. It was said that one of General Grant's staff officers during the Civil War was known far and wide for his stupidity. People wondered why the General kept such a dumb fellow on his staff and one day a personal friend of Grant's questioned him about the man.

"Oh," replied the General, "Lieutenant Colonel Blank is a very valuable officer. We could scarcely get along without him. You see, when we are issuing a very important and complicated order we first give it to him to read, and if he can understand it, we know anybody can understand it, and so we issue it."

Income tax

716. You should file your income tax, not chisel it.

717. FRIEND: "Which of your works of fiction do you consider the best?"

AUTHOR: "My last income tax return."

718. An accountant has submitted to the Revenue authorities a simplified tax form. His suggested form reads: (1) How much did you make? (2) How much did you spend? (3) What have you left? (4) Send it in.

719. "I hear that psychiatrists and tax collectors are now handing out the same advice."

"What's that?"

"It's not good for a man to keep too much to himself."

720. A taxpayer sent a letter to the state comptroller's office saying he had cheated on his income tax ten years ago and had not been able to get a good night's sleep since. He enclosed $25 and added: "If I still can't sleep, I will send the balance."

721. A successful businessman who lay dying insisted that his remains be cremated. A friend agreed and asked cautiously: "And what do you want done with your ashes?"

"The ashes?" said the dying man. "You will place them in an envelope addressed to the Revenue authorities and tell them that now they have everything."

722. The local income tax examiner called a minister to inquire about a $600 contribution supposedly made by a member of his church. "Did he actually make this donation?" the tax man asked.

The minister hesitated for a moment, then replied: "He will, he will."

723. A hotel owner reported that he had a guest at his place who aroused everyone in the hotel one night screaming, "It's in the phone book! It's in the phone book!" The proprietor got the house detective and they let themselves into the man's room with a pass key.

He was in the midst of a nightmare. They aroused him and asked what was the matter.

"I was having a terrible dream," said the guest apologizing. "I dreamed the income tax people wanted to send me a big refund, but they'd lost my address."

724. A little boy wanted $100, so he decided to pray for it since everyone said he should. He prayed every night for two weeks—still no $100; so he decided to write God a letter. A postal official received it but didn't know where to send it, so he forwarded it to a Congressman. The Congressman read the letter and told his secretary to send the boy $5. When the boy received the money, he was delighted and wrote God another letter thanking Him for the prompt reply. The letter read:

"I noticed that you routed your letter through Washington. As usual, they deducted 95 per cent."

Information

725. HE: "If you'll give me your telephone number, I'll call you up sometime."

SHE: "It's in the book."

HE: "Fine! And what's your name?"

SHE: "That's in the book, too!"

726. After an evening in a night club, a gay party at one of the tables rose to leave. Beckoning to a waiter, one of the men asked, "Is it raining outside?"

"Sorry," came the waiter's cold reply, "this isn't my table."

727. She was going to have a baby, but she couldn't decide just how to tell him. But when he told her they would celebrate their wedding anniversary any way she wished, she thought she saw her chance.

When he got home from the office she said: "Darling, I bought three tickets for the theater."

"Fine," he answered, "but sweetheart, there are only two of us."

"Oh, yes?" she replied. "That's what you think!"

728. At a party one night Mark Twain was asked to make a conundrum. Consenting, he inquired, "Why am I like the Pacific Ocean?" A number tried to make answer but without satisfying the humorist, until finally the crowd gave up the guessing and one of them said: "Tell us, Mark, why *are* you like the Pacific Ocean?" "I—don't know," the humorist drawled, "I was just—asking—for information."

Ingenuity. See *Resourcefulness*

Initiative

729. Often there is a job just waiting for somebody with imagination to come along and create it. This is a lesson I learned as a boy. Anxious to earn extra money, I asked all three drugstores in my town for a job—any kind of job. There were no openings. But a week later I found that one of these stores had taken on a new boy. Screwing up my courage, I asked the owner why.

"Well, I'll tell you, son," he said. "I didn't *think* I had a job open when you asked for one. But then Freddie came in with an idea. He owns a bicycle, and he suggested that I start a delivery service, meaning himself. That's a new notion for this town. It's going to make a hit."

Well, I had a bicycle, too, but Freddie had something I didn't have—an idea.

Installment purchase

730. When a wife buys things on credit, she is merely displaying confidence in her husband.

731. Most young married couples these days have a plan for the future. It is known as the installment plan.

732. ST. PETER: "Here is your golden harp."

NEWLY ARRIVED AMERICAN: "How much is the down payment?"

733. "What do you mean, you have nothing to live for?" a wife asked her despondent husband. "The house isn't paid for, the car isn't paid for, the TV isn't paid for . . ."

734. The mistress was showing her new maid around the house. As they came to the dining room the mistress said, "This dining room table goes back to Louis the Fourteenth."

"That's nothin'," replied the new maid, "my whole living room set goes back to Sears the fifteenth."

Insurance

735. How about the guy who walked down the ramp from the plane and grumbled, "Well, there goes $2.50 worth of insurance down the drain."

736. HE: "Dear, I just insured myself for $20,000, so if anything happens to me, you and the children will be taken care of."

SHE: "That's nice. Now you won't have to go see the doctor every time you feel sick."

737. "What I mean is," explained the insurance salesman to a bewildered rural prospect, "how would your wife carry on if you should die?"

"Well," answered the farmer reasonably. "I don't reckon that's any concern o' mine—so long as she behaves herself while I'm alive."

738. "Now that will be a premium of $16.37 per month for straight life," said the insurance salesman. "That's what you want, isn't it?"

"Well," the customer replied, "I would like to play around a little on Saturday nights."

739. Awakening in the middle of the night to see the shadowy figure of an intruder going through her jewel box, Mrs. Porter aroused her husband and excitedly whispered, "There's a burglar after my jewelry. Stop him!"

"Stop him?" choked the apprehensive Mr. Porter. "Suppose he's armed?"

"Don't be silly," implored the worried spouse. "You're insured—the jewelry's not!"

740. PROSPECTIVE CLIENT: "I have a $1,000 life insurance policy and for a man in my position, that's a lot of dough."

INSURANCE AGENT: "That is a lot of dough." Then he carefully spelled the word D-O-U-G-H in big capital letters down the side of the page. "Now, the D stands for doctor; the U for the undertaker; the G for general expense, and the H for the hospital."

PROSPECTIVE CLIENT: "What about the O?"

INSURANCE AGENT: "That, sir, is the magnificent sum on which your widow and three children will have to live."

741. One stormy day at the New Orleans airport a man sitting in the waiting-room overheard two women discussing the flying conditions. They were uneasy about their trip north, so they decided to take out flight insurance. At first they couldn't decide whom to name as their beneficiaries, but finally each named the other and, a moment later, they happily boarded the plane together.

Integrity

742. A psychologist selected at random from a telephone directory the names of 100 men and women and sent each of them a $1.00 bill. An accompanying letter explained that the sum was the refund of an overpayment on a previous bill.

In a short time 63 of them returned the money with a note saying that a mistake had been made.

743. The Long Island commuter train was packed. Suddenly there was a jingle on the floor. Most necks were craned. One old man, however, bent down, picked something up, and asked: "Did anyone drop a half dollar?"

"I did," answered three men simultaneously.

"Well," said the old man, "here's a dime of it."

744. As a girl friend was chatting with a movie cashier a customer bought a ticket and walked away without his change.

"What do you do in a case like that?" asked the friend.

"Oh," was the answer, "I rap on the window with a sponge, and if he doesn't come back, there's nothing I can do about it."

745. An Army private liked his furlough and wanted more. Resourcefully, he wired his commanding officer:

"No death, no emergency. Request extension of furlough. Having wonderful time."

Having heard all the usual alibis, his commanding officer responded: "Reward for honesty extension of five days on present furlough granted."

Intentions

746. In Frankenberg, Germany, the local fire brigade, resorting to desperate remedies for desperately needed funds, issued the following warning to the villagers: "If not enough money for the new hose can be collected, we may find ourselves forced to stage a concert."

They got their money.

747. The farmer had his young nephew from London visiting the farm for the first time. The boy watched wide-eyed as Mr. Hyde, cattle buyer, made his way through a herd pinching and prodding the cows.

"Uncle George, what's he doing that for?" asked the boy in a loud whisper.

"He's just making sure they have good solid flesh on 'em before he buys 'em. So he tests their flesh and generally gives them a good going over."

Some days later the uncle was appalled when his nephew dashed up to him in the meadow and blurted out, "Uncle George, you'd better get back to the house quick! Looks like Mr. Hyde is thinking of buying Aunt Genevieve!"

748. It was one of those committees whose job it is to decide whether or not a student is to receive a grant of money to help continue a course of study.

The candidates were young would-be doctors and among them was an exceptionally attractive girl. When they came to consider her case, the committee felt very doubtful about giving her a grant. She had passed all the preliminary examinations—but it seemed to the committee, who were all men, that after a long and expensive training she would probably get married at once, thus wasting the money spent on her. When, therefore, she appeared for the interview, the chairman lost no time in expressing the doubts that he and his colleagues felt. "I know you've done very well in the exams, Miss Smith," he said, "but what are you going to do *after* all this?"

"Well," said the girl, fluttering her eyelids, "I *was* going straight home . . ."

Interference

749. A grocer was standing in front of his store when he saw a driverless car rolling slowly down the street. He ran to the car, jumped in and pulled on the emergency brake with a jerk. As he got out, a little proud, a man walked up.

"Well," said the grocer to the car owner, "I stopped it!"

"Yeah, I know," said the owner, "I was pushing it."

Introduction of speaker

750. "My friends," said the chairman, "I have been asked to introduce Senator Spooner, who is to make a speech. Well, I have done it and he will now do so."

751. Shortly after his defeat for re-election to Congress in 1946, New York City Court Justice Peter A. Quinn says he was introduced as follows by a Washington toastmaster: "The next speaker bears a slight resemblance to the earth. You know the earth is not a perfect spheroid, because it is flattened at the poles. So was your next speaker."

Invention

752. There is a joke in Russia that the country's most successful inventor is Comrade Reguspatoff (Reg U S Pat Off).

753. A famous designer of aircraft was studying closely a stuffed bird in the museum.

"That bird appears to interest you, sir," observed a passer-by.

"It certainly does," was the reply. "It's tail plane appears to infringe on one of my patents."

754. Before the turn of the century, a Bishop, paying his annual visit to a small religious college, was discussing the state of the world while a guest at the home of one of the professors. He ventured the opinion that because everything about nature had been discovered and inasmuch as all possible inventions had been made, the world was on the verge of the millennium. The professor disagreed. He said the next fifty years would produce many discoveries and inventions. "Many!" cried the Bishop, "name one." The professor replied that in

the next few years man would be able to fly like the birds. "Nonsense," exclaimed the Bishop. "Flight is reserved for the angels."

The Bishop's name was WRIGHT—he had two sons, Orville and Wilbur.

755. The late Thomas A. Edison was talking one day with the governor of North Carolina, and the governor complimented him on being a great inventor.

"I am not a great inventor," said Mr. Edison.

"But you have over a thousand patents to your credit, haven't you?"

"Yes, but about the only invention I can really claim as absolutely original is the phonograph," was the inventor's reply.

"Just what do you mean?" asked the governor.

"Well," explained Mr. Edison, "I guess I'm an awfully good sponge. I absorb ideas from every source I can, and put them to practical use. Then I improve them until they become of some value. The ideas I use are mostly the ideas of people who don't develop them themselves."

Jealousy

756. Sacha Guitry's fifth wife sometimes seemed jealous of her predecessors. Guitry reassured her with a prophetic line: "The others were only my wives. But you, my dear, will be my widow."

757. "Prosperity has certainly built up this community," observed the visitor, looking at the freshly painted houses and the new barns and silos.

"It wasn't prosperity," replied the farmer. "It was just plain jealousy."

758. A woman walked into a furrier's shop and asked for a drop-dead coat.

"What on earth is a drop-dead coat?" asked the furrier.

"A coat so that when my neighbor sees it, she should drop dead."

759. Dr. Ernest Dale, New York educator and business counselor, told a convention how an old man in a village once handled a group of young men who were jealous of his wisdom and decided to trap him. The youths planned to show him a bird and ask him whether it was dead or alive. If he said it was dead, they would let it fly. If he said it was alive, they would wring its neck to prove the old man wrong. They approached him and asked: "Old man, is the bird dead or alive?"

"Young man," he said after a long pause, "it is in your hands."

Journalism

760. "Miss Jones, you must be careful about your stories," the editor said. "Accuracy is to a newspaper what virtue is to a woman."

"Maybe so, chief," she replied, "but a newspaper can print a retraction."

761. A British fledgling reporter had been reprimanded for his overlong accounts and told to be brief. His next story was turned in as follows:

"A shocking incident occurred last night. Sir Reggy Blank, a guest at Lady Briny's ball, complained of feeling ill, took his hat, his coat, his departure, no notice of his friends, a taxi, a pistol from his pocket and finally, his life. Nice chap. Regrets and all that."

762. The editor of the local newspaper queried the new applicant for the job of re-write man. "Well," said the editor, "are you good?"

"Sure," was the reply.

"All right, then, fix this and cut it short," instructed the editor, handing him the Ten Commandments.

The applicant gave the copy a glance, seemed a little nonplussed, then stepped over to the desk and wrote briefly, and handed it to the editor, who studied the paper for only a moment, then looked up and said, "You're hired."

The re-write on the paper was, "Don't."

763. When we die and reach heaven there will be no need for the doctor, for there we will all enjoy perfect health. Nor will we need the opinions of a lawyer, for in heaven there will be no disputes to settle. There will be no business in heaven, so the services of the businessman will not be needed. But the journalist will be a very important man. In heaven, as on earth, we will all want to know what the other fellow is doing.

764. The cub reporter's first assignment was to report a wedding, but he did not return to the office until the next morning.

"Why didn't we get a story from you?" demanded the angry city editor.

"There was nothing to report," was the cub's reply. "The bridegroom was killed on the way to the church and the bride died of the shock. So there was no wedding and I just went home."

765. If an editor makes a mistake he has to apologize for it, but if a doctor makes a mistake he buries it. If an editor makes one there is a lawsuit, swearing and the smell of sulphur, but if a doctor makes one there is a funeral, cut flowers and a smell of varnish.

A doctor can use a word a yard long without knowing what it means, but if an editor uses it, he has to spell it. Any old college can make a doctor. You can't make an editor—he has to be born.

766. Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin, was once touring the United States and while on his way to breakfast in New York's Biltmore Hotel was stopped by two reporters who inquired of him: "Tell us, Dr. Fleming, what does a famous scientist think about at this time of the morning?"

Solemnly, Dr. Fleming replied: "I'm very glad you asked me that question, because as a matter of fact I was thinking about something very special at the moment."

Eagerly the reporters poised their pencils.

"I was considering," said Fleming, "whether I ought to have one fried egg or two for breakfast."

767. It is human nature to believe more readily what one sees in print than what one learns by word of mouth. A newspaper editor said to his housekeeper one morning: "I think we'll have a good potato crop this year."

"No such thing," asserted the housekeeper. "I think the crop will be poor."

Ignoring her remark, the editor proceeded to his office and had inserted in the evening paper his estimate of the crop situation.

That night when he returned home, he found the housekeeper waiting for him with a sheepish grin on her face and a copy of the paper in her hand.

"I was wrong," she said apologetically. "It says here in the paper that the crop will be excellent this autumn."

Judge—Jury

768. JUDGE: "Do you plead guilty or not guilty?"

DEFENDANT: "How should I know before I've heard the evidence?"

769. MAGISTRATE: "Did you, or did you not, strike the policeman?"

PRISONER: "The answer is in the infirmary."

770. When a federal judge in Texas instructed a jury to return a verdict of not guilty in an automobile theft case, the foreman of the jury solemnly announced: "We, the jury, find the boy who stole the car, not guilty."

771. A barrister was met by a friend the other day in the street, laden with a lot of law books. Pointing at the books, his friend said, "Why, I thought you carried all that stuff in your head!" "I do," quickly replied the lawyer, with a knowing wink; "these are for the judges."

772. JUDGE (to defendant): "You are charged with knocking down and robbing this poor defenseless man of

everything except a gold watch which he had with him. What is your plea?"

DEFENDANT: "You say, your Honor, he had a gold watch with him at the time?"

JUDGE: "That is the charge."

DEFENDANT: "Then I plead insanity."

Justice

773. "Had tough luck in court this morning."

"How come?"

"I was fined five dollars by the judge for kissing a woman. Then the judge saw her and fined me ten dollars more for being drunk."

774. Louis XIV once got into an argument with his opponent in a game of backgammon. The courtiers surrounding the table, uncertain as to what course to take, remained silent while the King expostulated. In the heat of the discussion one De Grammont entered the room and at sight of him Louis rushed to his side for his opinion.

"Now, De Grammont," he said, excitedly, "I want you to judge whether I am right or wrong in this."

"You are wrong, Your Majesty," answered De Grammont.

"But," Louis retorted in wild-eyed surprise, "I haven't yet told you what the disagreement is about!"

"True," was the diplomat's response. "But if you were right, sire, these gentlemen standing here would be loud in your support!"

Justification

775. Willie Sutton, the notorious bandit, when captured, was pressed for the reason why he robbed banks.

"Because," he confessed with candor, "that's where the money is."

776. "Why does a talented, beautiful girl like you dance in a run-down sordid place like this?"

"I don't know unless it's because I meet a lot more prominent, eligible, rich men like you than I did when I was a librarian."

Juvenile delinquency

777. Horace Mann once made a speech at the dedication of a building devoted to the reformation of delinquent boys, a building that had cost many thousands of dollars. "If all this which has been spent on this building," he said, "results in the reformation of one boy, it is money well spent."

"Dr. Mann," asked someone in the audience, "do you think one boy is worth all that money?"

"Yes," he replied, "if it's my boy or yours."

Key—Keys

778. A mountainy farmer went into the hardware shop in his local market town and asked them to cut a new "Yale" key from one which he handed to the man behind the counter. On being told that the job would take a few hours he said he would call for it on the next market day.

He did so, and asked: "Will the key work all right now?"

"Certainly," answered the assistant.

"Well, I hope it fits," remarked the farmer, "because th' other one didn't."

Kindness

779. The teacher had asked her small pupils to tell about their acts of kindness to dumb animals. After several heart-stirring stories, the teacher asked Tommy if he had anything to add. 'Well," he replied rather proudly, "I kicked a boy once for kicking his dog."

Kiss—Kissing

780. "I don't mind men who kiss and tell," the girl said. "At my age I need all the advertising I can get."

781. Stealing a kiss sometimes leads to marriage . . . a perfect example of crime and punishment.

782. "Best way to quiet a hysterical girl," said the psychologist, "is to give her a kiss."

"But how do you get them hysterical?"

783. PROFESSOR: "You may get all sorts of things from kissing."

COED: "How true! how true! We're offered diamonds, pearls, roadsters and fur coats."

784. He was seated with his best girl in a dim corner.

"Give me a kiss," he pleaded.

No answer.

"Won't you please let me kiss you?" he asked again.

Still no answer.

"Are you deaf?" he shouted at length.

"No," she snapped, "are you paralyzed?"

785. Two pretty girls met on a street and enthusiastically kissed each other. A young guy watched them moodily and said, "That's the trouble with the world today. Too many women trying to do a man's job!"

786. They were parting—lingeringly—at the front door.

"When I say good-bye to you this evening," said Mr. Sloman, "do you think it would be proper for me to place one reverent kiss upon your fair hand?"

"Well," she replied, coquettishly, "I would consider it decidedly out of place."

787. Gracie Fields tells a story about a boy and a girl who were at a church social where the lights went off by accident for several minutes.

The girl said, " 'Erbert, you really shouldn't 'ave kissed me like that, with all those people so close around us, even if it was in the dark."

"I didn't kiss you," said the boy, looking angrily around in the crowd. "I only wish I knew who it was—I'd teach 'im."

"'Erbert," sighed the girl, "you couldn't teach 'im nothing."

Know-how

788. A man in Alaska was arrested for bigamy. It was discovered that he had a wife in Nome, another wife in Fairbanks and a third in Juneau. The judge looked down at the culprit and sternly remarked: "How could you do such a thing?"

The bigamist replied: "Fast dog team."

789. The lady of the house had tried for sometime to follow the directions for installing a new can opener. Finally she gave up and went to get her glasses for a better look at the instructions. When she got back, the can opener was neatly in place, and the cook was using it.

"How did you manage to do that?" the astonished woman asked.

"Well, ma'am," the cook replied, "when you can't read you've just got to think."

790. The visitor to the trading post on the lake asked the clerk about the weather for the next day. The clerk shook his head. Just then an Ojibway Indian, an odd-job worker about the place, entered the post. His answer was immediate: "Going to rain—much." And so it did.

The next day the visitor was again at the post, eager for expert testimony on the weather. Fortunately, the Indian who heard the voices of nature was also present. This time he said the weather was to be clear and cool. Again the forecast was correct.

The third morning the query was repeated. The Indian smiled: "Dunno. Didn't hear radio today."

Landlord-Tenant

791. It's kinda sad sometime to find yourself living in a more expensive apartment . . . when you haven't even moved!

792. TENANT: "The roof is so bad that it rains on my head. How long is this going to continue?"

LANDLORD: "What do you think I am—a weather forecaster?"

793. "Why did you give your roomer notice?"

"Well, I'm not one to suspect people, but when a man always hangs his hat over the keyhole, there is something mysterious going on."

794. TO NEW TENANT: "You know we keep it very quiet and orderly here. Do you have children?"

"No."

"A piano, radio, or victrola?"

"No."

"Do you have a dog, cat, or parrot?"

"No, but my fountain pen scratches a little sometimes."

795. A party of tourists were making a trip round the ancient castle. "For centuries," explained their guide proudly, "nothing here has been changed. No brick has been laid, not a tile replaced, none of the walls redecorated, and even the floorboards are the original ones."

"Fancy that!" whispered one woman to her husband. "Apparently they have here the same landlord as we have!"

796. During a wild summer storm at the beach the woman sat up in bed terrified. Windows were breaking, telephone wires and branches of trees crashed against the house, the electric current was cut off, and the house rocked on its very moorings.

"Oh, George," cried the woman through quivering lips. "This house will blow away for sure!"

"Don't worry, darling," said the husband, comfortingly. "Remember, we're only renting it."

797. When John Barrymore scored his first hit on Broadway, he took an apartment in New York's Greenwich Village and spent his newly found wealth buying furnishings for it. He even built a garden on the roof. To accomplish this, tons of earth had to be hauled up.

Soon after the garden had been completed, it belatedly came to the attention of the owner of the building.

"What have you done?" he wailed to the actor. "This roof cannot sustain such a weight. It will collapse!"

"Are you sure?" said Barrymore.

"Of course I'm sure. Now what are you going to do about it?"

"I'm going to move, of course!" retorted Barrymore. "You don't expect me to live in an unsafe building, do you?"

798. He got out of bed at 2 A.M. He threw a dressing gown over his pajamas and galloped down two flights of stairs to the landlord's flat.

He rapped sharply. No answer. He knocked again, and again. Finally the door opened. A sleepy-eyed landlord yelled, "Well, what do you want?"

The tenant took a deep breath. "I just want to inform you," he said, "that I won't be able to pay the rent this month."

"Is that why you woke me in the middle of the night?" the landlord howled. "Couldn't you tell me that in the morning just as well?"

"Certainly," admitted the tenant, "but why should I be worrying alone?"

Language

799. "So you have just returned from Paris. Did you have any trouble with your French?"

"No, but the French did."

800. MOTORIST: "Your honor, I was not drunk. I was only drinking."

JUDGE: "Well, in that case I'm not going to send you to jail for a month—only for 30 days."

801. Bobby was having much difficulty with his grammar. Finally one day he ran into the house to his mother, and throwing his books on the table, said: "I got it straight now. Hens set and lay, but people sit and lie."

802. A proud moppet pointed to his image in the mirror and exclaimed, "That's me."

"Now, now," his mother gently corrected, "that's I."

After soberly regarding the mirror again, the youngster murmured, "Well, it certainly looks like me."

803. A Japanese who was visiting in this country took great interest in American maxims and similar verbal expressions, but did not always understand them precisely. One day he heard the expression, "Out of sight, out of mind." He went to work with a dictionary to get the real meaning and came up with the following: "The unseen idiot."

804. The telephone rang in the principal's office the other day.

"Is this the high school?" asked a worried voice.

"Yes," replied the principal, "what can I do for you?"

Replied the worried one: "I'm calling up to find out if you have any classes at night that a father can attend to learn the slang of the day, so he will be able to understand what his children are talking about."

805. A young Frenchman in London for the first time was returning by Tube from the West End. He put his money down and in his best English accent said: "For Southgate."

He was given four tickets, but thought it was just another strange English custom. At Southgate explanations and a refund for three fares took place.

The next time he traveled he said: "To Southgate."

He received two tickets.

806. It was at a New England summer hotel where many of the waitresses were young college women earning money in vacation time to pay for their educational expenses. One day there entered the dining-room a company of equally young college men. They proceeded to order dinner, and banteringly discussed the *menu*. When it came to ordering wine with the meal, they all declared for hock.

"Hic, haec, hoc!" exclaimed one of the lads, punningly, glancing roguishly at the demure little waitress waiting for the order.

The meal progressed, but the wine was not forthcoming. Beckoning to the waitress, the spokesman said:

"I ordered wine; why didn't you bring it?"

"Because you subsequently declined it, sir," was the witty retort.

Lawyer

807. "And how is lawyer Boothby doing, doctor?"

"Not well. In fact, the poor fellow is lying at death's door."

"That's grit for you; at death's door and still lying."

808. A lawyer who had just been fined ten dollars for contempt of court shot a poisonous look toward the bench, reached a hand into his pocket, and said, "I'll pay it now, it's just a debt."

809. Chauncey Depew, addressing a graduating class at Harvard Law School, reminded his audience, "Everything you learned here will go for naught if you forget this fundamental rule: when it appears apparent in a case that somebody on your side is headed for jail, be sure it *is* your client."

810. A boy was a witness in court, and the lawyer said: "Did anyone tell you what to say in court?"

"Yes, sir."

"I thought so. Who was it?"

"My father, sir."

"And what did he tell you?"

"He said the lawyers would try to get me all tangled up, but if I stuck to the truth, I would be all right."

811. Listening to an important law case one day, I feared the opposing attorneys would come to blows any minute. I had no doubt they were bitter enemies. Later, I saw the two lawyers going down the corridor arm in arm to have lunch together. I pointed out to a friend how they were double-crossing their clients, and expressed the opinion that their verbal clawing was only so much hypocritical action, designed to conceal that the case was fixed, and division of the spoils agreed upon in advance.

"If these men became unfriendly to every man whom they oppose at the bar," explained my friend, "no lawyers would be on speaking terms. But these men have learned how to hold difference of opinion and still remain friends."—J. S. ROYER

812. A judge had given his decision on a case, and counsel for plaintiff rose and questioned it.

"I cannot allow you to reopen this case after I've given my decision," said his lordship.

"Then, my lud, I may as well sit down," returned the advocate. "It's no use knocking my head against a stone wall."

"Sir, I know it is no use knocking your head upon a stone wall," returned the judge. "But I know no other who could perform the operation with less personal injury than yourself!"

Lawyer-Client

813. Have you ever heard about the lawyer who got his client a suspended sentence? They hanged him.

814. CLIENT: "I'll give you one hundred dollars to do my worrying for me."

LAWYER: "Great! Where's the hundred?"

CLIENT: "That's your first worry."

815. They had reached a juncture in the trial when the court advised the attorney to withdraw with his client and give him the benefit of the best advice he could think of.

After fifteen minutes, he returned to the courtroom without his client.

"Where is the prisoner at the bar?" asked the judge.

"He's skipped," replied the lawyer. "That was the best advice I could give him."

Laziness

816. "You must be very fond of your mother, my lad," said General Robert E. Lee once to a young student noted for his lack of energy—"you are so considerate of her son!"

Leadership

817. Only one man in a thousand is a leader of men. The other 999 are followers of women.

818. "Tom, that dratted cat is back again. I thought you took it out to the country to lose it."

"I did. Then I got lost and had to follow it back home."

819. One day when the subject of leadership was brought up by one of his staff, President Eisenhower took a small piece of string and laid it on his desk. "Look," he said, "if I try to push it I don't get anywhere. But if I pull it I can take it anywhere I want."

820. Little Mary arrived home one day with a mongrel female dog. She thought the animal was beautiful, but try as she might, she couldn't persuade her mother to keep the dog.

The climax of the debate came one day a week later. When Mary arrived home from school she found the dog running about the yard, closely followed by a pack of male dogs.

Mary, her eyes shining with pride, ran into the house. "Mommy," she called, "come to the window. Our dog is just a natural born leader."

Library—Librarian

821. "You have a nice collection of books, but you should have more shelves."

"I know, but nobody ever seems to loan me shelves."

822. GIRL (taking book back to librarian): "Mother says this book is not fit for me to read."

LIBRARIAN: "Oh, I'm sure your mother must be mistaken."

GIRL: "No, she isn't—I've read it!"

823. A new patron of the Cincinnati Public Library was astounded at the vast supply of freely lent material. He stood in the record department, gazing around and gripping his card.

"You mean," he said, "with this card I can take out any record I want?"

Assured of this, he went on, "And I can take out any color film you have?"

Another assurance didn't stop the dazzled patron, who persisted, "With this card can I take out any librarian?"

Here the woman at the record desk sweetly informed him, "The librarians, sir, are for reference only."

Life

824. "Life, at its best," said Mark Twain, "is a losing proposition. Nobody ever came out of it alive."

825. An Indian from Santa Fe was on his first visit to Los Angeles and was taken to see the fabulous Forest Lawn Cemetery.

He stood there gazing at the green lawns, shimmering ponds, gleaming statuary and he was obviously impress-

ed. Turning to his companion, he grunted, "Ugh! These palefaces—they know how to live."

Life insurance. See *Insurance*

Literature

826. The high school class was struggling with its first contact with the works of Chaucer. The teacher asked, "Can anyone tell us whether Chaucer has been translated into other languages?"

A teen-ager rose and commented grimly, "The way it looks to me, he hasn't even been translated into English yet!"

827. A literary pundit bobbed up in London with the theory that Shakespeare's plays had been written by Queen Elizabeth. The eminent Scots minister, Dr. Hugh Black, challenged him. "Surely," he scoffed, "you don't believe a woman could have composed masterpieces of that type."

"You miss my point entirely," said the scholar. "It is my contention that Queen Elizabeth was a man."

Living, Cost of

828. Two old-timers were discussing a mutual friend.

Said one: "Poor old Abe is living in the past."

"Why shouldn't he," the old-timer replied, "it's a lot cheaper."

829. Summoned to the business office, the salesman was told, "This expense account amazes us. How do you manage to spend $14 a day for food?"

"I manage," came the reply, "by skipping breakfast."

Logic

830. CONDUCTOR: "You know darn well the distance between Chicago and Cleveland is the same as from Cleveland to Chicago. Any damn fool knows that."

PASSENGER: "I dunno; it is just a week from Christmas to New Year, but is it a week from New Year to Christmas?"

Long-windedness

831. In a political meeting, a candidate was told he had been allotted just five minutes, so he began: "If I speak more than five minutes, I hope you will vote for my opponent and that he will be elected." He did, and they did, and he was.

832. After a long-winded introduction, the chairman remarked to the speaker, "I hope I haven't been encroaching on your time."

When the speaker got up he replied: "You may not have been encroaching on my time, but you certainly have been trespassing on Eternity!"

833. They had just returned home from an important occasion where he had been the principal after-dinner speaker. Anxious for some word of praise for his histrionic efforts, he turned to his wife and asked:

"Honey, how did I do tonight?"

"Very well," she replied, "except you missed several good opportunities to sit down."

834. A reporter asked a new sensation in the business world: "Mr. Warren, you are truly a self-made man. You have educated yourself while you fought your way up to success. Tell me, how did you get in all that reading during those busy years?"

"It was quite simple," Mr. Warren explained. "I kept a good book open upon my desk, and read it whenever someone said to me over the telephone, 'Just a moment, please.' "

835. A door-to-door salesman who always has trouble with chatty women got hold of an old, broken hearing aid which he wears when calling on prospective customers. If the lady of the house is a gabby kind who wants

to talk, something always happens to the thing and he can't hear a word. Out comes a pencil and pad and the lady is asked to write down what she is saying.

Surprising how little a woman has to say when she has to write it down.

836. The professor had just finished his lecture on "How to Win the War." A friend came up to congratulate him. "You did a good job," he said. "Everything went well and you came through nicely. There was only a minute or two that I got a bit worried."

"Thanks," said the professor modestly, "but what were you worrying about? What mistake was I making?"

"Well," replied the friend, "it wasn't much, but a rumor did go around the room that the war would be over before your lecture."

Love

837. The young man took his bride on their honeymoon. They spent their first night at Monte Carlo and as they strolled down to the beach in the moonlight and sat there gazing out over the water, the young man quoted:

"Roll on, thou dark and deep blue ocean, roll!"

Whereupon the young bride grasped her husband's arm and with deep emotion exclaimed:

"Oh, Richard, dear, look—how wonderful you are—it's doing it!"

Luck

838. The maid had just answered the door bell. "It was two ladies," the girl explained to her mistress, "and I said that you were not at home."

"And what did they say?" asked the lady of the house.

"One said to the other, 'Well, Friday's not such an unlucky day, after all.'"

839. "My luck's right out. I lost a pot of money in a business deal; then I had my car stolen; now my wife is ill. How's that for being dead out of luck?"

"Not as bad as mine, old boy. The other day I bought a suit with two pairs of trousers, and this morning I burned a hole in the coat."

840. Chauncey Depew used to tell of two friends of his—one an extraordinarily successful man of affairs; the other a speculator who won or lost more by instinct than through planned effort.

On one occasion these men were discussing whether success in life was attained by judgment or luck. The financier, naturally, said judgment. The speculator held out for luck.

Said the speculator: "You are a '49'er; that was an adventure." "Not on my part," said the financier, "it was judgment."

"Well," persisted the speculator, "you came to New York at a time when investment of your money yielded the highest returns. Surely that was luck." The financier insisted it had been pure judgment. So the argument persisted. Finally the speculator concluded: "Well, you'll have to admit that you are mighty lucky to have such good judgment!"

Man—Men

841. Men can be divided into three classes:

1. The handsome.
2. The intellectual.
3. The great majority.

Man—Woman

842. There are only two kinds of men: those who try to fool women and those who do.

843. To be happy with a man you must love him a little and understand him a lot. To be happy with a woman

you must love her a lot and not even try to understand her.

844. Two boys were leaning against a corner drug store.

"Dames," sniffed one, "are a dime a dozen."

"Gee," exclaimed the other, "and all this time I've been buying jelly beans."

845. There was a furious debate on labor legislation in the French Chamber of Deputies. A Communist deputy was holding forth, arguing that women should receive exactly the same pay as men in any given work. "For," as he said, "the difference between men and women is actually very small."

At this point another deputy brought down the house, as he stood up and shouted: *"Vive la difference!"*

Marine Corps. See *Armed forces*

Marriage. See also *Husband-Wife*

846. "You married me for my money!"

"And I earned it!"

847. There are very few girls who want to remain single. They'd rather knot.

848. Old Czech proverb: It's dangerous to marry a woman who looks good in black.

849. Every woman waits for the perfect man to come along—but in the meantime, she gets married.

850. For every man who lives to be eighty-five, there are seven women but by that time it's too late.

851. The biggest trouble with modern-day marriage is that too many of the people who say "I do," don't!

852. "You're wearing your wedding ring on the wrong finger."

"I . . . I married the wrong man."

853. A man who thinks marriage is a 50-50 proposition either doesn't understand women or fractions.

854. My friend's been unlucky with both his marriages. His first wife ran away with another man and the second one didn't.

855. "I'll never forget our wedding day," the man confided to a friend. "You never saw two happier people—her parents."

856. Some men have found out that it's cheaper to marry the girl and keep her home than not to marry and take her out.

857. Three things to give in marriage:

1. Industry
2. Inspiration
3. In

858. YOUNG SON: "Do you know, Dad, I read that in some parts of Africa a man doesn't know his wife until he marries her?"

DAD: "That happens in most countries, son."

859. Conversation in a club car: "So you have two grown daughters. Do they live at home with you?"

"No, they're not married yet."

860. It doesn't take long in some marriages for the man to wonder what happened to the girl he married and for the girl to wonder what happened to the man she didn't.

861. The wife of one of the defensive tackles on the Detroit Lions admitted: "It's really exciting to be married to a professional tackle. Every time he comes home he looks like a different person."

862. "On the day my wedding occurred . . ."

"Pardon me for correcting you, but affairs such as marriages and receptions 'take place.' Only calamities occur."

"As I was saying—on the day my wedding occurred . . ."

863. Her father asked his prospective son-in-law if he could support a family, and we have to admire the young

man's answer—"No, sir, I was only planning to support your daughter. The rest of you will have to take care of yourselves."

864. GEORGE: "I'm going to marry a widow."

BILL: "I wouldn't want to be the second husband of a widow."

GEORGE: "I'd rather be the second than the first."

865. As usual, the girls were talking about men and marriage.

"I'll have trouble finding the kind of man I want to marry," commented Denise. "He'll have to be smart enough to earn lots of money, but stupid enough to give most of it to me!"

866. "I have an announcement to make this morning," said the minister. "If any of you are contemplating matrimony, will you please present yourselves to me immediately after the singing of the hymn 'Mistaken Souls that Dream of Heaven.'"

867. MOUNTAINEER: "Say, doc, I want you to take care of the bullet wound in the leg of my son-in-law."

DOCTOR: "What's the idea of shooting your son-in-law?"

MOUNTAINEER: "When I shot him he wasn't my son-in-law yet."

868. An angry young woman rushed into the clerk's office. In her hand she bore a license. To the clerk she said: "Did you or did you not, issue this license to Albert Briggs for marrying me?"

"Yes, I believe I did. Why?"

"Well, what are you going to do about it?" she demanded. "He's escaped."

869. Advice from a former playboy to his son on the subject of marriage: "My boy, I have just got two little pieces of advice to give you, first always reserve the right to spend one night each week out with the boys." He paused and then his son asked for the second piece of

advice. He immediately got it. "Don't waste it on the boys."

870. After the wedding, the minister patted the groom on the back and told him, "Son, God bless you. You're at the end of all your troubles."

A year or so later, the young husband met the preacher and threatened to beat him up.

"What's the matter?" the preacher asked in astonishment.

"When you married me, you told me I was at the end of all my troubles!" the young man cried.

The minister smiled. "Son, I just didn't tell you which end."

871. David Dubinsky tells about the labor leader who went to a matrimonial agency. "Is this a union shop?" he inquired. Assured that it was, he picked out a picture of a luscious 25-year-old and said, "I'll take her."

"No, you have to take this lady," said the manager, showing a picture of a gray-haired woman of 60.

"Why do I have to take her?" thundered the labor leader.

"She," said the manager, "has seniority."

872. When Boswell censured a gentleman of his acquaintance for marrying a second time, as it showed a disregard of his first wife, Dr. Johnson commented: "Not at all, sir. On the contrary, were he not to marry again, it might be concluded that his first wife had given him a disgust for marriage, but by taking a second wife he pays the highest compliment to the first by showing that she made him so happy as a married man, that he wishes to be so a second time."

873. Once upon a time, an Idaho potato married a Maine potato. They were very happy, and pretty soon they had a little sweet potato.

The sweet potato grew to maturity, and her eyes began to wander. One day, she came to her mother, the Maine potato, and said: "Mama, I have a crush on Drew Pear-

son. He's so refined, so gentlemanly. I love him dearly, mama, and I want to marry him."

"Heavens!" the mother potato said. "You can't marry Drew Pearson! He's a commentator!"

Married Life

874. "Were you excited the first time you asked your husband for money?"

"Oh, no, I was calm—and collected."

875. One of the advantages of married life is that the husband always knows where his money went—his wife spent it.

876. If you've been getting up with a grouch every morning, let him get his own breakfast for a change!

877. "Before Albert was married he said he would be the boss or know the reason why."

"And now?"

"He knows the reason why."

878. "During all these years," the old lady was asked on her Golden Wedding anniversary, "have you ever thought of divorce?"

"No," she replied,"—only murder."

879. Little Johnny asked his dad why they named hurricanes after women. "You'll understand, son," Papa replied, "when you grow up and get married."

880. "What would you say is the most aggravating thing in married life?" asked the young lady.

"Sometimes," replied her bachelor friend, "it's the husband, and sometimes it's the wife."

881. "Lena," said the housewife to her maid, "I don't understand how you put up with being married to such a lazy, shiftless man."

"Well, we got a fifty-fifty arrangement," explained Lena. "I make the livin'—he makes the livin' worth while."

882. A couple celebrating their 20th anniversary were seated at the movies, watching one of those torrid foreign films. When they got home that night the wife turned to her husband coyly.

"Why is it you never make love to me like all those men in the movies?" she murmured.

"Are you crazy?" he replied. "Do you know how much they *pay* those fellows for doing that?"

883. The Duc de Nivernois, a French diplomat who was a widower, was a devoted friend of the widowed Comtesse de Rochefort, whom he visited every evening without fail. This constancy became a joke among his intimate friends, one of whom suggested to the Duc that he'd save a lot of footsteps if he married the lady.

"Oh, yes, certainly," the Duc agreed, "but where should I then spend my evenings?"

884. During the course of his pastoral visits, a white-haired minister called upon one of his parishoners, who, in recounting his blessings, said that his little family had lived together for many years without a single quarrel or difference.

Replied the wise old minister, "If there never was a difference, there must have been a vast amount of indifference."

Meanness

885. A hermit lived at the top of a high hill. One day, a fishmonger climbed up the slope to offer him some of her wares.

After a trying quarter of an hour's climb to reach the hermit's house, she arrived at his door and asked him, "Do you want any fish today?"

"No, not today," replied the hermit.

It took her a quarter-of-an-hour going down the hill, and at the bottom she heard the hermit calling after her. She retraced her steps to the summit, and when she ar-

rived, breathless, at the hermit's house, she heard him say, "And I shan't want any tomorrow, either!"

Medical science. See also *Doctor-Patient*

886. Medical science tells us that whiskey can't cure the common cold; neither can medical science.

887. At a recent game at the Milwaukee Stadium, the loud-speakers paged a doctor with his code number. A prominent obstetrician groaned his disappointment, got up and left.

He passed another doctor on the way. "Your number?" asked the second MD. The OB man nodded.

"I haven't seen a complete game this season," he said. "Next time I'm born, I'm going to be a dermatologist."

888. A doctor told his patient that she needed a good hearty meal at night and then to stop worrying about her stomach.

"But, doctor, only two months ago you told me to avoid dinner at night, and take only a light snack instead."

"Oh, did I?" replied her medical adviser, reflectively. "Well, that only goes to show what marvelous strides medical science is making."

889. When we listen to the extravagant claims made by the medicine men on television and radio we find ourselves thinking that their curative powers are about equal to some medicine Sambo's friend, Rastus, used.

Sambo asked, "Where yo' goin' boy?"

"I'se goin' down to get myself some tuberculosis stamps," explained Rastus.

"What is dey?" Sambo asked curiously. "I ain't never heard tell of 'em."

"Every year," Rastus told him, "I gets mahself 50 cents worth of dem tuberculosis stamps and stick dem on mah chest and I ain't never had tuberculosis yet."

Mind, Presence of

890. When hecklers once tossed a cabbage at William Howard Taft during a political speech, he paused and peered at it, and then said calmly: "Ladies and gentlemen, I see that one of my opponents has lost his head."

891. Upon leaving a rush tea at one of the top houses on the University of Washington campus, in Seattle, a young hopeful caught her heel and plunged the full length of the stairs.

With great poise she stood up, brushed herself off, and announced: "And I can sing, too!"

The house pledged her!

892. A college student arose from his table in a fashionable hotel dining room and walked toward the door. He was passing the house detective at the entrance when a silver sugar bowl fell from beneath his bulging coat. The young man glanced calmly at the detective, then turned with annoyance toward the occupants of the dining room.

"Ruffians!" he said. "Who threw that?" and walked out.

893. A candidate, addressing a political meeting, made a false step and fell off the platform. Regaining his equilibrium and returning to the platform, he proceeded with this calm observation: "It should be the duty of all good speakers to come down to the level of their audience."

894. A newsboy was standing outside a ballpark when a sudden drizzle had crowds milling around, hesitant to watch their favorite pastime. The enterprising newsboy brought them in by shouting, "Buy a paper to sit on—seats are all wet!" He sold out in a few minutes by turning a minor calamity into a profit-opportunity!

895. When Henry Ward Beecher was minister at Plymouth church, Brooklyn, his brother agreed to fill the pulpit one Sunday. The house was packed but when it

was noticed that the regular minister would not preach, a number arose to leave.

"Father Tom," as the other Beecher was known, assumed command of the situation and announced: "All who came to worship Henry Ward Beecher may depart at this time. The rest will stay to worship God." The exodus ceased.

896. With tears in her eyes his wife exclaimed: "I know you don't love me—you've forgotten my birthday!"

"Darling," replied the quick thinker, "I am more sorry than I can say, but it is really your fault."

"My fault?" she exclaimed. "How can that be?"

He took her hand in his. "How can I remember your birthday," he asked, "when there is never anything about you to remind me that you are a day older than you were a year ago?"

897. The ball team had hit a terrific batting slump and the coach called a special batting-practice session. Grabbing a bat, he charged out to the plate snorting, "Here, you dopes! I'll show you something!"

But the coach, it developed, was sadly out of practice. After seven or eight futile swipes, he flung the bat aside. "See?" he said. "That's the sort of thing you guys have been doing. Now, I want you to get in there and slug the ball!"

898. The King of Prussia was once addressing some school children, when he held up an orange and asked: "To what kingdom does this belong?" Receiving the correct answer, he held up a coin with the same question, which was also answered correctly. "To what kingdom do I belong, then?" he queried of one of the girls. The child blushed. She did not like to say, "The animal kingdom," lest the royal visitor might be offended. There flashed through her mind the thought, "God made man in his own image," and looking up brightly she said: "To the kingdom of God."

899. Falling off a small stepladder and hurting herself, a maid sued her mistress for damages. The plaintiff's prize exhibit, the ladder itself, was on show, and she alleged that it was rickety and unsafe.

The counsel for the maid's employer was seeking to prove that the ladder was perfectly sound. To make his point, he climbed it and stood on top, and then he jumped on the ladder. It fell to pieces under him.

The counsel picked himself up.

"You see, members of the jury," he said quietly, as if he had planned that to happen, "you see how solidly that stepladder was built. I weigh nearly one hundred seventy pounds and I had to jump on it with all my weight to break it."

He won his case.

900. A young college student was in a big hurry to get home again. He was not sure just how the accident happened or who was to blame, but there was a collision with another car and considerable property damage.

"Well," said the other driver, looking over the wreckage. "Luckily neither one of us is hurt. Let's go in and have a drink to settle our nerves while we wait for the police."

The two stepped into a place nearby and the nervous student quickly downed a rather stiff one. Noticing the other glass still on the bar, he asked: "Aren't you going to drink yours?"

"No," answered the sharp one. "I believe I'll wait until the police have had a chance to check up."

901. One night at the Metropolitan Opera House, baritone John Charles Thomas was asked, on practically a moment's notice, to sing the role of the father in "La Traviata."

He was, of course, familiar with the music. However, when he stepped out on stage, he realized that he wasn't sure of the words.

Somehow he managed to stumble along until he came to his big aria. Suddenly, his memory ran dry and he couldn't think of a single phrase except the title of the song.

Being an old pro, Thomas made that do. He sang the title over and over again, in brilliant voice.

The cast held its breath, the prompter chewed his nails, the conductor stood frozen. But the audience, unfamiliar with the words, sat entranced and gave him a tremendous ovation when he had finished.

Miracle

902. George Washington Carver, according to his own testimony, once asked, "Lord, what is the universe?" The Lord answered: "George, the universe is just too big for you to understand. Suppose you let me take care of the universe." Humbled, the Negro scientist asked, "Lord, if the universe is too much for me to understand, then what is a peanut?"

The Lord replied, "Now, George, you have something your size. A peanut you can understand. Now, go to work on the peanut—and I will help you."

For the remainder of his life George Washington Carver wrought miracles—with peanuts!

Mistake—Mistakes

903. "If you had your life to live over," the prominent octogenarian was asked, "do you think you'd make the same mistakes again?"

"Certainly," said the old man, "but I'd start sooner."

904. Last deer season a fellow in Wisconsin hit the dirt when a high-powered slug whined over his head. He lay tight until a red-coated female rushed up and asked breathlessly if he was hurt.

"Really, I'm awfully sorry," she admitted. "I thought you were my husband!"

905. A meek little man in a restaurant timidly touched the arm of a customer who was putting on a coat.

"Pardon me," he said, "but do you happen to be Mr. Jones of Richmond?"

"No, I am not," the man answered.

"I was afraid that was the case," apologized the first man. "You see, I am, and that's his coat you're putting on."

906. He set off for a house where a child's birthday party had been arranged.

"Don't announce me," he said to the maid who let him in.

Leaving his hat and coat in the hall, he opened the drawing-room door, through which a buzz of conversation could be heard. Dropping on his hands and knees, he entered, making noises like a horse neighing. There was a dead silence. He looked up and found about six people regarding him with perplexity and alarm.

He was in the wrong house.

907. A barber, a bald-headed man, and a professor were traveling together. They had to sleep one night in a lonely area and agreed that they would take turns guarding their possessions.

The barber took the first watch. Wishing to play a joke, he shaved the professor's head while he slept. When the barber's watch was over, he awakened the professor.

The professor, rubbing his head as he awoke, discovered that it was bare. "Why that scoundrel," he exclaimed, "he's awakened the bald-headed man instead of me."

908. An old backwoodsman drove his worn old mare into the nearby village one day and bought a few groceries at the general store. After he had been gone for a couple of hours, the storekeeper was surprised to see him trudge slowly across the street towards the store. He had seen the man drive away in his buggy and here he was again, looking as though he had walked miles.

"Where's your horse, Sam?" asked the storekeeper.

"Well, it's this way," slowly replied the old man as he sank into a chair. "I forgot to buy a spool of thread for my woman, and I never thought of it until I was nearly home. I just didn't have the heart to make that poor old horse of mine pay for my mistake, so I tied her to a tree and walked back."

909. An advertising man from the big city had hopes of someday acquiring a weekly newspaper. While vacationing in a small town he visited the publisher of the paper there.

He was curious, he admitted to the publisher, whether the paper made its money on its subscriptions.

"Nope," replied the publisher.

"How about job printing—you make money at that?"

The publisher shook his head.

"Well, how about advertising—you must make out there?"

"Break even."

The visitor was overwhelmed. "Then how in the world do you manage to show any profit at all?"

"Well," replied the publisher, "it isn't easy in this town. In fact, we couldn't continue publishing if it weren't for the humor departments of the big-city dailies. They buy all our typographical errors."

Modern age

910. It isn't what young girls know that bothers parents, it's how they found out.

911. The guy who makes a better mouse-trap in this day and age is in the same rat-race with the rest of us.

912. There's one major difference between modern girl and her mother. The former goes ahead and does what the latter always wanted to.

913. "When I was your age, young lady," said mother, "a nice girl didn't think of holding a man's hand."

"But, mother," replied the daughter, "nowadays a nice girl has to hold a man's hand!"

914. MOTHER: "Isn't this a rather complicated toy for a small child?"

TOY SALESMAN: "This, madam, is an educational toy, specially designed to adjust a child to live in the world of today. No matter which way he puts it together, it's wrong."

915. PHOTOGRAPHER: "Now smile and watch for the little birdie."

MODERN YOUNGSTER: "Oh, drop that 'little birdie' stuff! Get out your light meter and make some tests, adjust your lighting properly, and set your lens correctly so you won't ruin a sensitized plate."

916. During a convention of atomic scientists at Las Vegas, Nevada, one of the professors spent his whole free time at the gambling tables.

A couple of his colleagues were discussing their friend's weakness: "Hotchkiss gambles as if there were no tomorrow," said one.

"Maybe," commented the other darkly, "he *knows* something!"

Modesty

917. CUSTOMER: "Could I try on that dress in the window?"

CLERK: "Well, we'd rather see you use the dressing room."

918. They were discussing a mutual acquaintance.

"I admire the man's unusual modesty," said one.

"Yes," agreed the other, "but you must admit he has a great deal to be modest about."

Money

919. Money talks as much as ever, but what it says nowadays makes less cents.

920. Money may not buy happiness, but it certainly lets you look for it in a lot more places.

921. One nice thing about money—the color never clashes with any outfit you're wearing.

922. A well-known comedian was being seen frequently with a certain beautiful blonde. Finally someone asked where they had met.

"I dunno," said the comic. "I just opened my wallet and there she was."

Motherhood

923. A teacher once asked one of her pupils this question in fractions: "Suppose your mother baked a pie and there were seven of you—your parents and five children. What fraction of the pie would you get?"

"A sixth," said the boy.

"But there are seven of you," said the teacher. "Don't you know anything about fractions?"

"Yes," replied the boy. "I know about fractions, but I know about mothers, too. Mother would say she didn't want any pie if I hinted that I wanted two pieces."

Mother-in-law

924. Men speak of their in-laws as if their wives didn't have any.

925. A man can always put up with his mother-in-law until she decides to put up with him.

926. Proof that mothers-in-law are really nice people is the fact they've never produced an endless stream of son-in-law jokes.

927. "Your mother has been living with us for twenty years now," said John. "Isn't it about time she got an apartment of her own?"

"My mother?" replied Helen. "I thought she was your mother."

928. GOLFER: "I'm anxious to make this shot. That's my mother-in-law up on the clubhouse porch."

FRIEND: "Don't be a fool, you can't hit her from here. It's 200 yards."

929. "You don't look so good, Fred—what's the trouble?"

"Domestic trouble."

"But you have always bragged that your wife was a pearl."

"Still is. It's the mother-of-pearl that makes the trouble."

930. A man brought a cocker spaniel to a veterinarian and ordered him to cut off the dog's tail. "I want it all off," he said, "so that not even a hair of the tail remains."

"Sorry," the vet replied. "I couldn't do that to a dog. Why should you want to cut the tail from an innocent little dog?"

"My mother-in-law is visiting us next month," the man replied, "and I want to eliminate any possible sign or indication of welcome.

931. The young man announced triumphantly to his family: "I've just got engaged to Maria."

"Horrors! With that tow-colored hair," said his father.

"She won't even be able to sew a button on," said his mother.

"She has no idea of make-up and can't dance," said his sister.

"Her hands are ugly," said his brother.

At this point the young man stopped them and said with a smile: "Yes, you're all right. But she has *one* very important point in her favor. She's an orphan!"

Motive—Motives

932. When he says to his wife, "For two pins I'd leave you," he usually has a young and shapely pair in mind.

Music

933. "How's your daughter getting on with her violin lessons?"

"She's progressing. We can tell when she's tuning now."

934. "How is the orchestra at the club?"

"Well, I won't say it's bad, but last night when a waiter dropped a tray of dishes, six couples got up to dance."

935. An old lady, hearing a celebrated pianist play ultra modern music for the first time, remarked to the friend sitting alongside her: "He's all tired out, the poor man, and can't help hitting the wrong notes all the time."

936. NEW RESIDENT: "This village boasts a choral society, doesn't it?"

OLD RESIDENT: "Well, we don't boast about it, we put up with it."

937. A visitor once came upon the noted modern musician, Pablo Casals, practicing very slow scales upon the cello. "But, master," the visitor said, "surely you do not need to practice scales!" The musician replied: "Ah, my boy, the whole problem in playing the cello is how to get from one note to the next."

938. A lady, after performing, with the most brilliant execution, a sonata on the pianoforte, in the presence of Dr. Samuel Johnson, turning to the philosopher, took the liberty of asking him if he was fond of music. "No, madam," replied the doctor, "but of all noises I think music is the least disagreeable."

939. A famous conductor on tour with his orchestra was handed this note from a member of his audience one night, following a concert:

"I don't like to tell tales out of school," it read, "but I think you should know that the man who hits that little triangular-shaped bell only played when you looked at him."

940. We were giving a concert in a hotel. After the last strains of Handel's *Largo* floated out, a fat motherly woman near me leaned over and asked, "Won't you please play Handel's *Largo*?"

"But, we've just finished playing it," I said.

The fat lady sank in her chair. "Oh, I wish I'd known it," she sighed. "It's my *favorite* piece."

941. Dinner was a little late and one of the guests asked the hostess to play something. Seating herself at the piano, she executed a Chopin nocturne. When she had finished the selection there was still an interval of waiting before dinner.

In the silence she turned to an old gentleman on her left, and said, 'Would you like a SONATA before dinner?"

A look of startled surprise and pleasure came over the old gent's face. "Why, yes, thanks," he answered. "I had a couple on my way here, but I think I could stand another.

Name—Names

942. She called her baby Encore because he wasn't on the program.

943. PROUD PARENT: "My son is only three, yet he can spell his name backwards."

SKEPTICAL NEIGHBOR: "That's interesting. What's his name?"

PROUD PARENT: "Otto."

944. He was in the institution for the psychopathic.

"It's lucky thing," he said, "my name is Joe."

"Why so?" asked the visitor.

"Because," was the answer, "everybody keeps calling me Joe."

945. Getting ready to baptize the infant, the minister asked, "His name, please?"

The mother answered proudly, "Randolph Morgan Montgomery Alfred Van Christopher McGoof."

The minister turned to his assistant, "A little more water, please."

946. R. B. Jones, doesn't have a first or middle name, only the initials, which never were a problem until R. B. went to work for a U.S. Government agency. The Government is not accustomed to initialed but nameless employes, but R. B. finally was given official forms to fill out for the payroll and personnel departments, and his name was entered as R (only) B (only) Jones.

Sure enough, when R. B. got his pay check, it was made out to Ronly Bonly Jones.

947. The conductor of a passenger train in Illinois came through the cars announcing "Arcola next, Arcola." A short time later he reappeared and announced "Tuscola next, Tuscola." After the train pulled away from that station, a passenger turned to his companion and said, "What's next, Coca Cola?" Whereupon the conductor opened the door and shouted "Champaign next, Champaign!"

948. Theodore Roosevelt prided himself on his memory of names and faces. At a White House reception he stood shaking hands with a long line of visitors. At length there stood before him a little man from New York, a haberdasher who specialized in making shirts to order.

"Do you remember me, Mr. President?" asked the visitor. I made your shirts."

"Major Schurtz? Why, of course, I remember, Major," boomed the great man heartily. "And how are all the boys of the old regiment?"

949. At the close of the Civil War, a representative of a large insurance company offered Robert E. Lee the presidency of the firm at a salary of $50,000 a year.

Lee replied that while he certainly wished to earn his living, he seriously doubted whether his services would be worth quite so large a sum.

"We aren't interested in your services," the man told him. "We merely want your name."

"That," said Lee quietly but firmly, "is not for sale."

He accepted, instead, the presidency of a college at $1,500 a year.

950. A couple whose new home was completed very recently had hardly moved in before the neighbors came over to inspect it. Naturally the conversation was on the subject of the new house.

"It's very nice," commented one visitor, "but I don't see why you call this type of a house a bungalow."

"Well," explained the owner, "we just don't know what else to call it. The job was a bungle, and we still owe for it."

Navy. See *Armed forces*

Neighbor—Neighbors

951. "Good morning, madam, I'm the piano-tuner."

"But I didn't send for a piano-tuner."

"I know. It was a committee of your neighbors that called."

952. The man was more than a little annoyed when a neighbor telephoned at 3 A.M. and complained, "Your dog is barking so loudly that I can't sleep." The neighbor hung up before he could protest.

The following morning at 3 A.M. he called his neighbor and said: "I don't have a dog."

953. One day the richest woman in town went to visit an old woman living in a tenement, who was in great need. There was no food in the dingy kitchen; no money for rent. "I'll see that a settlement worker visits you in the morning," said the grand dame, as she planned a hasty exit. The old woman proudly replied: "You needn't trouble yourself; I need no help."

At that moment another woman, from "upstairs" in the tenement, entered with food and clothing. She was warmly welcomed. When the rich visitor asked for an

explanation, the tenement-dweller replied. "You see, she's a *neighbor*."

Neutrality

954. A young usher led a guest down the aisle. "Are you a friend of the bride or of the groom?"

"I'm a friend of both."

"I am sorry, madam," the young man replied. "I'm afraid you'll have to choose a side. I haven't any instructions on where to seat neutrals."

Newlyweds. See *Honeymoon*

Newspapers. See *Journalism*

Old age

955. There was a funeral recently in the South End of London which was attended by many old-time comedians who had gathered to say a last farewell to one of their members. During the ceremony, one man looked up at his neighbor and asked, "'Ow old are you, Charlie?"

"Ninety," replied the old-timer.

"'Ardly worth going 'ome, eh?"

956. When Sarah Bernhardt, the celebrated French actress, had grown old, she lived in an apartment high above the streets of Paris. One evening she was visited by an old admirer who knocked ... her door all out of breath from the long climb.

"Madame," he exclaimed, "why is it that you live so high up?"

"Dear friend," replied the actress, "it is the only way *I* can still make the hearts of men beat faster."

957. Disraeli, when prime minister of England, was out walking one day with a friend. As they went along the streets of London, they met a rather distinguished-looking elderly man whom Disraeli greeted very cordially and then inquired: "How is your old complaint?"

The man responded that it was getting worse and worse and he was sure that it was going to be the death of him.

As Disraeli and his friend walked on, his friend asked who the elderly acquaintance was. Disraeli said that he did not have the faintest notion who the man was.

"But you asked about his old complaint," persisted the friend. "How did you know about that if you did not know the man?"

The prime minister replied wisely, "I have found that almost all elderly people have some complaint, and they like to talk about it."

Opportunity

958. A young man-about-town took a glamorous girl out on a date. They were driving down a moonlit country lane when the engine suddenly coughed and the car came to a halt.

"That's funny," said the young man. "I wonder what that knocking was?"

"Well, I can tell you one thing for sure," the girl answered icily. "It wasn't opportunity.

959. A minister on meeting a little boy one day asked, "Sonny boy, who made you?"

"Well, to tell you the truth," the little boy replied, "I ain't done yet."

That sharp answer contains a very wise bit of philosophy. The lad realized he was still growing up. The longer he lived, the more opportunity life would give him.

960. A carpenter had been picked up for a foreman's job by his employer. One day the employer happened to be watching that carpenter when the quit-work whistle blew. At the moment the carpenter was driving a nail. He stopped hammering at the first sound of the whistle. He did not finish driving in that one nail. Then and there he lost his chance to become a foreman.

961. When Elihu Root was called into Teddy Roosevelt's cabinet to serve as Secretary of State, he was already a well-known and well-thought-of man in the United States. In fact, an intimate friend wrote Root, "Why not wait three years and get the substance instead of being the shadow now?"

In a return letter, Mr. Root replied, "I have always thought that the opportunity to do something worth-while is the substance, and trying to get something is the shadow."

Optimism

962. A certain manufacturer is very optimistic over the future of business.

"Then, why," he was asked, "do you look so worried all the time?"

"Oh, that," he replied. "Well, to tell you the truth, I'm worried about my optimism."

Outer Space. See *Space, Outer*

Overweight

963. "My word! Your wife has put on a lot of weight."

"Yes, she's not her old sylph any more!"

964. The worst kind of reducing pill is the one who keeps telling you how she did it.

965. Since the discovery of elastic, it is estimated that women take up one-third less space, says Sizmo Sam.

966. "What do you think mother would like best?" asked the young man, thinking of a birthday present.

"To be weighed and found wanting," replied the father.

967. HUSBAND: "I hate to mention this dear, but you're getting fat."

WIFE: "Well, aren't you lucky? I remember you once told me I was worth my weight in gold."

968. "What will you do, darling," asked mother, "when you grow up to be a great big girl?"

"I'll reduce," answered little Linda.

969. A suburban housewife was telling her neighbor about a new book on reducing she had just bought for $5.

"How much have you lost so far?" the neighbor asked.

"Just," replied the woman, "five dollars."

970. The man was sitting at his desk, busily scribbling figures on a piece of paper. A friend was curious and asked him what he was doing.

"Well, it's like this. My wife is on a diet and she told me she's losing four pounds a week. She did weigh 168 and if my figures are correct, I'll be rid of her completely in 14 months!"

971. When Hiram's wife decided to buy a new vacuum cleaner, the woman who came to demonstrate it was so fat that she wheezed and groaned as she did the necessary stooping. Hiram wondered why on earth she had ever taken such a job when she caught his eye and began to laugh.

"I know what you're thinking," she panted. "The reason I took this job is that I'm trying to reduce and I hate exercise. This way I at least get paid for it."

972. A certain doctor advised a rather corpulent patient to take up golf as a healthy exercise.

After a few weeks his patient returned and asked whether he could not take up some other game.

"But," protested the doctor, "there's no finer game under the sun than golf."

"I can quite believe it," replied the obese one. "But it's no use my trying to play the wretched game. If I put the confounded ball where I can see it, I can't hit *it*, and when I put it where I can hit it, I can't see it, so what am I going to do?"

973. An overweight woman went to her doctor for help. He put her on a diet and gave her a box of reducing pills with instructions to take no more than three a day. When

she arrived home she placed the box on the table while she left the room to change.

During her absence, her two daughters age 3 and 5, found the pills and between them consumed them all.

Alarmed the woman called her doctor and explained what had happened, but he told her not to worry. "They'll be nervous, wide awake and going full steam for a couple of days," he explained, "but the pills won't do the children any real harm."

So for the next few days and nights the kids really went wild and led the poor woman a merry chase.

But the incident had one salutary effect: The mother from all the wear and tear lost nine pounds.

Parent—Child

974. 'Tis better to have loved and lost than to do homework with three children.

975. HUNGRY YOUNGSTER: "But mother, if Tommy always gets the biggest piece of cake because he's the biggest boy, how will I ever catch up?"

976. Said one teen-ager: "You know, I'm starting to wonder what my parents were up to at my age that makes them so doggoned suspicious of me all the time!"

977. It must come as a shock to most mothers when, after struggling years to civilize a son, a little five-foot girl with a sweet face tames him in a week.

978. WILLIE: "Mother, do you know our new twenty-four-piece dinner set?"

MOTHER: "Yes, Willie, why do you ask?"

WILLIE: "Well, it's a twenty-five piece set, now."

979. A father returned home from his usual day at work and found his small son sitting on the front steps looking mighty unhappy.

"What's wrong, son?" he asked.

"I can't get along with your wife," the boy replied.

980. What the young father ought to know: "First place the diaper in position of a baseball diamond, with you at bat. Fold second base over home plate. Place baby on pitcher's mound. Then pin first base and third base to home plate.

981. A little girl of six once asked her mother why she must do as she was told. Her mother, rather bewildered as to what reply to give, said, "When I was a little girl I had to do what my mother told me, and when grandmother was a little girl she had to do what her mother told her," to which the child replied, "H'm, I wonder who started that silly game."

982. Every restaurant proprietor is familiar with the patrons who sometimes ask that the beefsteak leavings be put in a bag "for the dog."

Word reaches us that when it happened on a recent occasion, the small boy in the family spoke up in a shrill and excited voice: "Oh, boy, we gonna get a dog?"

983. One frosty day young Dennis was out walking with his mother. As they turned a corner the mother slipped and sat down with a bump.

Dennis looked at her.

"Ups-a-daisy, Mummy," he said. "Now we're going to jump up and laugh and show how brave we are!"

984. A small boy was being sent to summer camp much against his will, and making no bones about it.

"Why, you'll just love camp," his aunt said soothingly. "You'll have a simply wonderful vacation."

"I won't," was the acid retort, "but my mother will."

985. While her husband was out of town on a business trip, the young mother had her hands full managing the house and their two-year-old son.

When she had finally tucked the child in bed for the night, come back for the last kiss and the last drink of water, she collapsed at the desk and started to write her husband a letter.

"Dearest Bob," she wrote, "I have certainly worked from son-up to son-down today!"

986. A neighbor was congratulating Mrs. Smith on the willingness with which her children took cod-liver oil. "Tell me," she asked, "how do you persuade them to swallow it?"

"It's very simple," explained Mrs. Smith. "For every spoonful they take, I give them a dime for their money-box."

"But that must be expensive for you!"

"Not at all!" said Mrs. Smith. "When there is fifty cents in the box, I use the money to buy a new bottle of cod-liver oil!"

987. "I've got the one son who's the bane of my life," groaned Regan. "The bum worries me so bad I ain't had a good night's sleep in three months."

"Have you tried counting sheep?" asked his friend.

Regan hadn't, so that night he tried it.

The next morning he looked worse than ever.

"Didn't you count sheep?"

"I counted fine," growled Regan. "I counted up to six thousand seven hundred eighty-five sheep and I was just dropping off, when along comes a black sheep. And I got to thinking about that bum again and I was up the rest of the night!"

988. They were trying to sell the latest Electronic Brain to the tycoon. "Go on, sir," they said, "ask it a question—any question."

The tycoon pondered and said, with a cunning look: "Ask it where my father is."

A punched card was prepared and fed into the brain. The brain clicked, flashed, and rumbled and very quickly shot out a punched card which read: "Enquirer's father at this moment driving off 9th tee at St. Andrews."

"Well," said the tycoon sarcastically, "there might be a golf course in heaven, but I can hardly imagine St. Andrews to be in paradise. My father is dead."

This information was fed back to the brain and another punched card came out and read: "Husband of enquirer's mother is indeed dead. Enquirer's father at this moment driving off 10th tee at St. Andrews."

989. INFANT PRODIGY

Two pickpockets met on a subway train, each
picking the other's pocket.
The woman crook got his pocket-book, the
man got her diamond locket.
Admiring each other, they fell in love, they
married, but that was worse.
They wished for a child who could snag a
bag, or pilfer a Scotsman's purse.
Their wish came true, and a boy was born,
a slick-looking, sly-faced mite,
But, alas, alack, with a crippled hand—
the fingers were closed up tight.
The heartbroken parents hurried the child
to a famous specialist,
And offered him watches and precious gems,
if he could unclench the fist.
First thing he did was to tie a string to a
wrist-watch with jeweled band,
And wave it steadily, back and forth, just over
the crippled hand.
As the fingers opened, the Mother and Dad
began to dance and sing.
For there in the palm of the baby's hand,
was the mid-wife's diamond ring!

Partnership

990. A tramp knocked on the door of the inn known as George and the Dragon. The landlady opened the door, and the tramp asked, "Could you spare a hungry man a bite to eat?"

"No!" replied the landlady, slamming the door in his face.

A few minutes later the tramp knocked again. The landlady came to the door again. This time the tramp asked, "Could I have a few words with George?"

991. We've just heard about the West Coast dress buyer who dropped in at the New York firm of Jackson, Parker, and Lewis. "Mr. Jackson or Mr. Parker," he requested.

"Sorry," said the receptionist, "they're both out of town."

"Mr. Lewis, then."

"Mr. Lewis is tied up."

The next day he called back, and was again unsuccessful. On the third day he telephoned and was told the two partners were still out of town.

"And Mr. Lewis?"

"Sorry, he's tied up."

"What goes on?" the buyer shouted. "He's been tied up for three days!"

"Oh," explained the girl. "Mr. Lewis is the junior partner. When the others go away, they *always* tie him up."

Patience

992. "Give me some milk! Give me some milk!" the little girl yelled, banging her cup on the table.

"Why, daughter, haven't you any patience?" one of her parents mildly chided her.

"Yes, I have," shouted the child, "but I haven't any milk!"

993. Two men once lost their lives in this manner: One of them became angry at the other, and, removing a pendulum from a big clock, used it as a weapon with which he beat the life out of his companion. The murderer took poison and so the two passed on. A philosopher commenting on the tragedy said: "What a shame to make

violent use of that pendulum! Give it time, and it would have killed both men peacefully and decently."

994. A young father was pushing a baby carriage in which an infant was screaming. Wheeling the howling baby along, he kept murmuring gently, "Easy now, Donald. Keep calm, Donald. Steady, boy. It's all right, Donald."

A mother passing by paused to say, "You certainly know how to talk to an upset child—quietly and gently."

Then, leaning over the carriage, she said, "What seems to be the trouble, Donald?"

"Oh, no," said the father. "He's Henry, I'm Donald."

Patriotism

995. Whenever an Englishman and an American get together, you will know within five minutes that each thinks his own country is the greatest in the world. The American will tell you so. The Englishman will assume that you know it already without being told.

Perfection

996. Thorvaldsen, the noted Danish sculptor, was once asked by an admirer, "Which do you consider is your greatest statue?"

Without hesitation, the famous Dane replied, "My next one."

997. In a biographical sketch of Enrico Caruso by Claudia Cassidy, music critic of the *Chicago Tribune*, that came with an album of his immortal recordings, I came across this significant paragraph:

"It happened in the wings of the Metropolitan Opera House early in 1916, when Edith Mason was beginning her career, as his was approaching its tragic end. She was singing Oscar the Page to his Riccardo in "The Masked Ball" and as they waited for their entrance she

was amazed to see that the most idolized of tenors was trembling.

"'Why, Caruso,' she exclaimed incredulously, 'are you nervous?'

"'Mason,' he replied in utter sincerity, 'other singers must sing 100%, Caruso 150.'"

To attain greatness a man must excel. And to hold his position he must keep right on excelling. When a man does a job superbly well, he sets a standard that people expect him to live up to. The price of being a top-notcher is terrific. Few of us are willing to pay it.

Perseverance

998. Once when Paderewski played before Queen Victoria, the sovereign exclaimed with enthusiasm, "Mr. Paderewski, you are a genius!"

"Ah, your Majesty," he replied, "perhaps; but before I was a genius I was a drudge."

999. A small boy was learning to skate. His frequent mishaps awakened the pity of a bystander. "Sonny, you're getting all banged up," he said. "Why don't you stop for a while and just watch the others?" With tears still rolling down his cheeks from the last downfall, he looked from his adviser to the shining steel on his feet and answered: "Mister, I didn't get these skates to give up with; I got 'em to learn how with!"

Photography

1000. Oliver Wendell Holmes used to be an amateur photographer. Once when he presented a picture to his friend he wrote on the back of it: "Taken by O. W. Holmes and Sun."

1001. When photography was first introduced, the question was put to Sir Edwin Landseer, "Will photography be an assistance to artists or not?"

"In my opinion," he is said to have replied, "it is a 'foe to graphic art.'"

Plagiarism

1002. Nicholas Murray Butler and Brander Matthews were discussing stories. Said Matthews: "In the case of the first man to use an anecdote there is originality; in the case of the second there is plagiarism; with the third, it is lack of originality; and with the fourth, it is drawing from a common stock."

"Yes," broke in Butler, "and in the case of the fifth, it is research."

Point of view

1003. Battle of the sexes: Men say women can't be trusted too far; women say men can't be trusted too near.

1004. Nothing improves the reception of a joke more than a purchasing agent telling it to a supplier.

1005. "Sir, I hear you have been attacking me."

"Attacking you, my dear lady! Why, I spend my whole life defending you."

1006. "What funny names some foreign towns have," remarked the man from Schenectady, as he read a Poughkeepsie newspaper on the train to Hackensack.

1007. FIRST FLY: "Human beings are funny people, aren't they?"

SECOND FLY: "Why do you say that?"

FIRST FLY: "They spend a pile of money building a beautiful ceiling, then walk on the floor."

1008. Asked how it felt to attend the dedication of his own statue, the honored man said, "Well, somehow, you begin to feel differently about pigeons."

1009. An Englishman, an Irishman and an American were flying low over the Sahara Desert.

"Beastly place!" said the Englishman.

"The Devil's home," said the Irishman.

"What a parking lot!" said the American.

1010. Mark Twain once visited the artist Whistler in his studio and was looking over his pictures. He started to touch one canvas. "Oh," cried Whistler, "don't touch that! Don't you see, it isn't dry yet?"

"I don't mind," said Mark Twain, "I have gloves on."

1011. Durand, a perfect example of a Frenchman but unfortunately one who has forgotten a great deal of history, was on a visit to London where a number of names intrigued him: Waterloo Station, Agincourt Street, Trafalgar Square . . .

"That's odd," he said to his wife, "the English seem to have a mania for naming places after defeats!"

1012. A woman wrote to a psychologist who gave advice through a syndicated newspaper column. Her problem, she explained, was this: She was a widow with a ten-year-old boy and she had married a widower with an eleven-year-old boy. Outlining her discipline problem with the boys, she said her own son was still "emotionally disturbed" over his father's death, but her husband's son was "just plain mean."

1013. Sometimes it takes another person to point out just how lucky we are. Take the case of the badly frightened passenger on a freighter wallowing through the heavy seas of a storm. Meeting one of the sailors in a protected passageway, he shouted, "Worst storm I ever saw!" The sailor nodded, but added cheerfully, "Lucky we ain't on land where something might blow off a building and hit us."

1014. "How are you getting along?" asked the old-timer of the new commercial traveler.

"Not so good," came the disgusted reply. "I've been insulted in every place I made a call."

"That's funny," said the old hand. "I've been on the road forty years, I've had my samples flung in the street;

been tossed downstairs; manhandled by janitors, and rolled in the gutter, but insulted—Never!"

1015. It might shake some of us out of our complacency to reflect that, in the estimation of the majority of men, Christians are outcasts from the divine presence. To the orthodox Jew, they are *goyim*, heathen. To the Mohammedan, they are infidels, to be barely tolerated because the Koran so commands. To the conservative Chinese, they are foreign devils. To the Hindu, they are people forever excluded from the light.

1016. A man went into a pawnbroker's shop and asked for a loan. The proprietor offered to make the loan but would charge 9 per cent interest. The customer objected to such a high rate.

"Nine per cent," said he, "is usurious; it is neither a right nor lawful rate. Don't you know the Lord looks down on such questionable transactions as this?"

"Very well, my friend," said the proprietor, "but when the Lord looks down on a 9, it looks like a 6."

1017. At a conference of the League of Nations after World War I, Ignace Paderewski of Poland and Georges Clemenceau of France met for the first time.

"You are the great pianist?" asked Clemenceau. Paderewski bowed.

Clemenceau continued, "And now you are the premier of Poland?" Again Paderewski bowed.

"My, my," said Clemenceau, with a deep sigh. "What a come down."

1018. One night after a recital, pianist Leopold Godowsky was leaving the concert hall with a friend. "What was wrong with you tonight?" asked the latter. "Your playing lacked fire."

"I know," admitted Godowsky. "It wasn't my best performance."

At this moment, one of Godowsky's bitter rivals rushed up to him and shook his hand. "Leopold," he cried,

"you were wonderful tonight! I never heard you play better!"

Godowsky frowned. When the other pianist had gone he turned to his friend and muttered, "I didn't think I was *that* bad."

1019. The belligerent little man with a very bad speech impediment said to the counterman: "I'd wike scwambled eggth with chicken wiverth—and no withe cwackth!"

"Scrambled eggth with chicken wiverth," the waiter called to the cook.

"Thtop twying to mock me!" snarled the little man, with a fierce look in his eye.

"I wathn't," protested the waiter. "Thith ith the way I talk."

The little man subsided. Just then a new customer sat down at the counter. "I'll have those pancakes with syrup and sausages," he said.

"Pancakes with syrup and sausages," sang out the waiter.

With a howl the little man was up again. "Tho you *were* mocking me!" he accused.

"I wath not!" said the waiter indignantly. "I wath mocking him!"

1020. Representative Brooks Hays had just made his first speech on the House floor:

"I worked long and hard on that maiden address and really put everything into it when I delivered it. The next day I eagerly opened the *Congressional Record* and there was my speech, word for word, just as I had given it. There was just one thing wrong: *The Record* had given Representative Oren Harris credit.

"I stormed down to the *Record* office and gave them a good talking to. When they apologized, I felt ashamed, and told them I was sorry for blowing my top.

" 'Oh, that's all right, Mr. Hays,' one said. 'It's really nothing. You should have heard what Mr. Harris said!' "

1021. There was to be a prize fight and a Sunday School picnic on the same day and two boats were waiting at the wharf to carry passengers to the respective places. Two men were late. One was going to the prize fight, the other to the picnic and they ran to catch their boat. The picnic boat was just shoving off from shore and the saloon-keeper man by mistake got on it and the picnic man by mistake got on the other boat. When the man who wanted to go to the picnic heard the swearing and saw the drinking and gambling and found that he was on the wrong boat he begged the captain to let him off but he would not. He had to endure the smoke and foul language. When the man going to the prize fight heard the singing and prayer and godly conversation and saw his blunder he pleaded with the captain to shove to shore, but he would not; then said he to the captain, "Let me off anywhere; put me on a rock—anywhere but here, for this is hell."

1022. A prominent clubman approached the manager of one of Manhattan's finest hotels and asked him if he would be willing to donate the use of the ballroom for a charity dance on a forthcoming Saturday night.

"It's for such a worthy cause," pleaded the woman earnestly. "It's for indigent ex-baseball players—all those fine, sturdy youngsters who were stranded in the prime of life with no other careers to fall back on."

The hotel manager agreed the cause was right—but this was the heart of the social season, and the ballroom was booked solid.

"However, Mrs. Van Puyster," he said, "you have one of the finest show places in the country. Couldn't you hold the dance in your own ballroom?"

"Wha-a-a-t," cried the dowager, "and have that bunch of bums messing up my place?"

1023. Two youngsters had strayed away from their mother in a department store and were riding up and down the crowded elevators. Suddenly the boy noticed that his ice

cream cone was dripping and wiped it against the back of a woman's mink coat.

"For goodness sakes, Jimmy, watch yourself," whispered his sister. "You're getting fur all over your ice cream."

Police

1024. Among the questions asked in the examination of an applicant on the Chicago police force was this one: "What would you do to disperse a crowd quickly and quietly?"

The answer: "I'd pass the hat."

1025. "Listen, Captain," said the perspiring police officer, "we've been giving that ventriloquist the third degree for an hour and a half; and a plainclothesman, three cops, and a police lieutenant have confessed to the crime—shall we go on?"

1026. There was a man who wanted so badly to become a member of the police force but he was too short. For days he hung by his neck from the rafter in the ceiling with weights tied to his feet so that he could get taller. *It worked too*! If he had lived he'd have been the tallest man on the force.

1027. POLICE OFFICER: "Pardon me, Miss, but swimming is not allowed in this here lake."

FLAPPER: "Why didn't you tell me that before I undressed?"

POLICE OFFICER: "Because there ain't no law against undressing."

1028. The very day a burglar alarm was installed in the box office of the village theatre a gunman poked a pistol through the window and demanded all the cash. The cashier pressed her foot to the alarm pedal. Her telephone rang. The gunman grabbed it, lifted the receiver and heard

an annoyed voice say: "This is the police department, miss. Will you kindly remove your foot from the pedal that rings the alarm over here."

1029. Visitors to London are familiar with the soapbox orators who congregate in Hyde Park to harangue the public upon the vital, and not so vital, questions of the day. One Sunday morning a crowd was gathered around a speaker who was loudly proclaiming the guilt of the ruling classes for the lamentable state of the nation.

"They're to blame for all our troubles!" he shouted. "What we should do is ter burn down the 'Ouse of Commons—burn down Buckin'am Palace."

When the crowd began to interfere with traffic, a bobby stepped up and ordered firmly but politely:

"Move on now. Them in favor of burnin' the House of Commons step to the right, them in favor of burnin' Buckingham Palace go to the left."

Politeness

1030. It was during a bargain sale and tempers were rising. "If I were trying to match politeness," said the customer to the salesgirl, "I'd have a hard time finding it here."

The clerk responded: "Will you kindly let me see your sample, please?"

1031. An old crossroad merchant wrathfully wrote a debtor who had promised time and again to settle his long delinquent account:

"You are just a mule-eared liar. If you don't settle up, I aim to clobber you until there won't be nothing left but a pair of suspenders and a wart. I want my money and I want it now."

Then, remembering that even a collection letter should be polite, he added a postscript: "Please excuse the pencil."

Politics

1032. CITIZEN: "It must be terrible for two great political leaders to split!"

HENCHMAN: "Not if they split 50-50."

1033. The lady candidate was being rudely heckled by a man who bawled: "Don't you wish you were a man?"

LADY CANDIDATE: "Don't you?"

1034. An admirer came up to a senatorial candidate after his speech and said: "Congratulations. That was a fine speech. I like the straightforward way you dodged those issues."

1035. "What did the audience do when you told them that you never paid a dollar for a vote?" inquired the first politician.

"Some of them cheered, but the majority seemed to lose interest," replied the other.

1036. "You must be prepared to make a sacrifice," the candidate told his audience. "You must do this for the sake of posterity."

"Why should we?" demanded a heckler. "What's posterity done for us?"

1037. CANDIDATE: "How can you conscientiously vote for my opponent? Didn't I give your sister a political job? Didn't I take care of your taxes? Didn't I get your brother out on parole?"

VOTER: "That's all true, but what have you been doing for me lately?"

1038. When Columbus started out, he didn't know where he was going. When he got back, he didn't know where he had been. And he did it all on other people's money.

What a politician Columbus would have been in present days.

1039. A woman with a newly-developed interest in government wrote to the editor of a big newspaper.

"I want to get into politics. Do the taxpayers have a party?"

The editor answered: "Very seldom, lady, very seldom."

1040. "I believe he's going to make a great politician some day," declared the proud mother.

"Why?" asked the listener.

"Because," was the reply, "he crawls out of everything so easily, does my little Tom."

1041. At a recent political meeting a well-known Republican was speaking. He remarked that his method of obtaining votes for the Republican party was to give every taxi driver a large tip, then tell him, "Vote Republican."

"I think my way is better," said a colleague. "I give them no tip and tell them 'Vote Democratic.'"

1042. A nationally prominent Republican was prevailed upon to attend a Democratic dinner incognito. He was soon recognized, introduced to the guests and invited by the chairman to give the invocation.

"I'm terribly sorry I can't oblige you," apologized the Republican leader; I don't even want God to know I'm here."

1043. Much to everyone's surprise the shyster lawyer had managed to win the election and now had a seat on the city council.

"I don't understand how a crook like you could get elected," one of his business associates said wonderingly.

"Oh, everyone who knows me knows I'm a crook," the lawyer admitted unabashed, "but everyone who knows my opponent knows he is a crook too. It just happened that he knew more people than I did and they voted for me to keep him out of office."

1044. The candidate for senatorial honors was scheduled to speak in a small town. Anxious to discover the religious affiliation of the majority of his audience, he addressed them warily in this manner:

"My great-grandfather was an Episcopalian (silence), but my great-grandmother belonged to the Presbyterian church (more silence). My grandfather was a Baptist (silence), but my grandmother was a Congregationalist (continued silence). But I had a great-aunt who was a Methodist (loud applause)—and I have always followed my great-aunt!"

1045. Up for re-election, the mayor of a small city was making his usual lavish promises to a group of voters. Because of his poor record, he had planted members of his organization in the audience to applaud, but the effect of this was spoiled by a seedy-looking man in the first row who punctuated the silence following each burst of applause with hearty laughter. Finally the mayor pointed to the heckler and said: "Will that gentleman who differed with me please get up and tell the audience what he has done for the good of this city?"

The man rose to the boos of the mayor's henchmen.

"Come, come," persisted the mayor, "speak up. Tell this audience just one way in which you have ever tried to help this city."

"Well, Mr. Mayor," said the man in a loud, firm voice, "I voted against you in the last election."

1046. George Washington was a high-minded citizen and, at first, was against buying the votes of the citizenry. He figured that his standing in the community as a great landowner and public servant would insure his election.

He got the surprise of his life when, in 1758, he ran for a seat in the Virginia House of Burgesses, or state legislature. His opponent, Thomas Swearington, actually a man of little value of the demagogue type, used booze to win.

Washington made no speeches and ladled out no drinks. Swearington stood at a big barrel of rum on election day and allowed no voter to go thirsty. He won the election by 270 to 40.

In a newspaper article Henry N. Taylor says Washington didn't repeat that mistake. He was a realist and admitted

that the mass of voters could be bought. The next year he told his campaign manager "to spend with not too sparing a hand." Drinks served in Washington's name included:

"Forty gallons of rum; 18 gallons of wine; 43 gallons of strong beer; one hogshead and one barrel of punch, containing 26 gallons of ye best Barbados rum; 8 quarts cider royale, etc." That's a total of 160 gallons, or something more than a quart and half per voter.

This time Washington won, 309 to 45.

He never failed to treat again, and he never lost another election.

1047. Placating both sides in a controversy without committing himself is one of the politician's greatest problems. Touring a section of the North-west in his vice-presidential railroad special in 1892, Adlai E. Stevenson (the grandfather of the more recent Adlai) found that the paramount issue of the campaign was whether the mountain peak which dominated the landscape should be called Tacoma or Rainier. At some stops the citizens were pro-Tacoma; at others pro-Rainier; it was impossible to avoid the issue.

With the assistance of the engineer, Stevenson arranged a showmanly device. In every speech he made his peroration on the beauty of the mountain, and referred to the controversy over its name. "This controversy," he continued, "must be settled and settled right by the national government. I pledge myself, here and now, that if elected I will not rest until this glorious mountain is properly named. There is only one appellation which is worthy of consideration and that . . ." Here he pulled the cord which the engineer had secretly installed; his voice was instantly drowned by the scream of the engine's whistle, whereupon the train pulled out of the station. The sentence was never completed and nobody ever learned where Stevenson stood on the Tacoma-Rainier controversy.

Prayer

1048. PREACHER (offering prayer for the forgiveness of the shortcomings of his congregants): "Oh, God! Forgive us for our falling shorts!"

1049. Two little girls were in danger of being late for school.

"Let's stop and pray for God to get us there on time," said one.

"No, better than that," said the other, "let's run with all our might, and pray while we're running."

1050. Betsy was saying her prayers. "And please," she implored, "make Boston the capital of Vermont."

"Why, Betsy!" exclaimed her shocked mother. "What in the world made you say that?"

"I wrote that on my examination paper today, and I want it to be right."

1051. The wife in one household made a specialty in serving meals with as many leftovers as possible. One night the menu consisted entirely of leftovers which she had daintily prepared with many clever attempts to camouflage. The moment her husband sat down he began to fill his plate.

"My dear," she remonstrated, "aren't you going to ask a blessing first?"

"My love," he replied, "if you will point out a single article here which hasn't been blessed before, I'll see what a little praying can do for it."

1052. A man parked his bicycle outside a church. He went to a friend's house and stayed until late, forgot the bike, and his friend drove him home. The next day he remembered. He assumed that the bicycle had been taken, but was surprised to see it exactly where he had left it. So he went into the church to offer a prayer of thanks. When he came out the bicycle was gone.

1053. The two men were adrift in an open boat and it looked bad for them. Finally one of them, frightened, began to pray.

"O Lord," he prayed, "I've broken most of Thy commandments. I've been a hard drinker, but if my life is spared now, I'll promise Thee never again—"

"Wait a minute, Frank," said his friend. "Don't go too far. I think I see a sail out there in the distance."

1054. Walking down a country lane, a man heard his little granddaughter from the other side of a large bush. She was repeating the alphabet—A, B, C, D, E, but in an oddly reverent sort of way. He waited until she was through and then walked around to find her.

"What were you doing?" he asked.

"I was praying," she answered. "I couldn't think of the right words, so I just said the letters, and God will put them together into the words, because He knows what I was thinking."

1055. Willie, on a visit to his uncle in the country, admired a colt.

"Uncle, give me that colt, will you?" he asked.

"Why, no, Willie," said his uncle. "That's a very valuable animal, and I can't afford to give it to you. If you want a colt so badly, why don't you pray for one. That's what I always do when I want a thing very badly and I've discovered when I do that it always comes to me."

"Is that so, uncle?" said Willie, eagerly. "Well, won't you please give me this colt then and pray for one for yourself."

1056. In Scotland there lived an old woman who believed implicitly in the efficacy of prayer. One night two young rogues heard her praying for bread. As a joke, they bought two loaves from the village baker, climbed the roof of the cottage and dropped them down the chimney.

Later, they called at the old woman's home and heard her tell of what she considered a miraculous answer to her prayers. The scamps in turn laughed at the old woman.

and related how they themselves had dropped the loaves down the chimney.

The old woman's faith was not shaken. "I still say God sent it," she insisted, "though the devil's imps may have brought it."

1057. Since the day he was commissioned, the Air Force lieutenant was plagued by a number of minor mishaps—bad weather, colds, and so on—which prevented him from flying.

Then he had a sudden inspiration. He made a long-distance call to his mother.

"Mother," he pleaded, "for goodness sake will ye stop praying against me!"

"Against you!" exclaimed his shocked mother. "Why, I've been praying for your safety every day since you left to join the Air Force."

"I know, I know," he rapped back, "and you've done such a good job that I can't even get off the ground!"

1058. "In the synagogue I heard men praying," said the puzzled young boy. "It must be awfully hard for God."

"Why?" asked the rabbi gently.

"The woodcutter was praying for cold weather."

"Naturally," the rabbi said. "He makes his living cutting wood for our stoves. The colder it is, the more wood he sells."

"But the fruit seller prayed for mild weather."

"Well," said the rabbi, "he stores autumn fruit to sell in the winter, and severe cold would freeze his stored fruit."

"The farmer prayed for rain, and the brickmaker for dry weather. They are godly men. How does God know how to answer all their prayers?"

"How is the weather now?" asked the rabbi.

"Dry . . . and mild."

"And last week?"

"Let me see . . . on Monday and Tuesday it rained . . . and on Thursday it was cold."

"See?" said the rabbi.

Preacher

1059. A preacher was once asked why he never allowed one of his elders to give the before-sermon prayer. "What," he protested, "and have him say, 'And now I lay me down to sleep?' "

1060. "Did you ever," said one preacher to another, "stand at the door after your sermon and listen to what people said about it as they passed out?" Replied he: "I did once—" a pause and a sigh—"but I'll never do it again."

1061. A Methodist minister, invited to speak in an Episcopal church, was asked if he would like a surplice.

"A surplice? Goodness, no!" smiled the general divine with a merry twinkle. "Remember I am a Methodist preacher. I know nothing of surplices. My only experience has been with deficits."

1062. The minister called at the Jones home one Sunday afternoon, and little Willie answered the bell. "Pa ain't home," he announced. "He went over to the golf club."

The minister's brow darkened, and Willie hastened to explain.

"Oh, he ain't gonna play any golf. Not on Sunday. He just went over for a few highballs and a little stud poker."

1063. After his return from church one Sunday a small boy said, "You know what Mommie? I'm going to be a minister when I grow up."

"That's fine," said his mother. "But what made you decide you want to be a preacher?"

"Well," said the boy pensively. "I'll have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I think it would be more fun to stand up and yell than to sit still and listen."

Preaching

1064. The preacher was delivering his sermon, and it was a highly successful one. He had just read the last line at the bottom of the next to the last page when he discovered that he had lost the last page.

The last line he read had been: "So Adam said to Eve . . ."

He carefully searched for the lost page and repeated: "So Adam said to Eve . . ."

Then, forgetting the amplifying system would carry the barest whisper to the last pew, he muttered to himself: "Good heavens, there seems to be a leaf missing."

1065. The young preacher thrilled his congregation with his first sermon—a challenge to "gird their loins" for Christian service and living. Then, to their dismay, he preached the same sermon the following Sunday. When he confronted them with the same ringing message on the third Sunday, his flock felt something must be done.

"Don't you have more than just one sermon?" blurted a spokesman to the pastor.

"Oh, yes," he answered quietly. "I have quite a number of sermons. But you haven't *done anything* about the first one yet!"

Precaution

1066. PROFESSOR: "This examination will be conducted on the honor system. Please take seats three spaces apart in alternate rows."

1067. As a playful precaution against bombing, an Ohio gentleman painted on his roof the notice: "Any resemblance between this roof and the Wright Aeronautical Plant is purely coincidental."

1068. The electrician was puzzled. "Hey," he called to his assistant.

"Put your hand on one of those wires." The assistant did as he was told.

"Feel anything?"

"No."

"Good," said the electrician. "I was not sure which was which. Don't touch the other or you'll drop dead."

1069. A young lady, visiting in the east, went driving one night with one of the local Romeos. As they pulled onto a lonely section of the beach, the car suddenly stopped.

The boy gave a resigned shrug. "Out of gas," he muttered.

Nonchalantly the girl opened her bag and pulled out a flask.

"Hey now, you're all right!" exclaimed the lady-killer. "Is it Scotch or bourbon?"

The girl smiled sweetly and said, "Gas."

1070. Shortly after Benjamin Franklin had invented the lightning rod, the elders of a church asked him: "Would you really think, Doctor, that a house of God needs your invention to be protected from the elements?"

"Gentlemen," said the witty Franklin, "I would not hesitate to put that lightning rod on top of your church. Being a religious man, I cannot believe that God is biased when distributing his lightning!"

Preferment

1071. On his tenth anniversary, a bandleader who played over 2000 dance dates was asked, "What have you had the most requests for?"

"Where's the men's room?" answered the maestro.

1072. An Englishman, a Frenchman and an Irishman were table companions on a channel steamer.

"If I were not a Frenchman," said the first, "I would be an Englishman," and he bowed.

"If I were not an Englishman," said the other chap, grinning and bowing back, "I would be a Frenchman."

The Irishman banged his fist on the table. "Begorra," he said, "if I were not an Irishman, I'd be ashamed!"

Prejudice

1073. A man invited a friend to accompany him to a theatre to see Jimmy Durante. His friend said: "No, thanks, he's one guy I can't stand." The man asked: "When did you last see him?" The friend replied: "I've never seen him, but I saw a fellow do an imitation of him and it was awful."

Preparedness

1074. The young Oxford student had failed miserably in all his final examinations. Fearing a rumpus at home, on his arrival, he wired his elder brother: "Failed in all exams, please prepare father." He was distressed when he got a wire from his brother: "Father prepared, prepare yourself."

1075. "Does it *always* look as neat as this?" asked the overawed city visitor of a Vermont housewife.

"Yes, indeed," firmly replied the Vermont matron, glancing around her spotless kitchen. "I never go to bed without leaving my house in dying condition."

1076. An old Missouri farmer used to go over his field the day before he started plowing and kill off all the rattlesnakes he could find. When asked if it wasn't a dangerous thing to do, he replied, "I reckon so, but if I don't kill off them critters today when I'm lookin', they're apt to get me tomorrow when I ain't lookin'."

1077. A woman who had been in an accident was in a traffic court explaining how she drove her car. She said to the policeman who had arrested her, "I always drive with the emergency brake on so that when there is an emergency I will be ready." That, she thought, was being on the safe side!

Pride

1078. A citizen of Cleveland met some friends from Detroit one evening.

"You should see how Cleveland is growing," he cried.

"Yes, I was there only yesterday," replied one of his Detroit friends.

"Ah," said the other, "you should have seen Cleveland this morning!"

1079. A Philadelphian and a New Yorker were having an argument as to the merits of their respective cities. The Philadelphian, driven to anger by his opponent's continued imperviousness, at length cried triumphantly, "But at least you must admit that Philadelphia is *well* laid out!"

To which the New Yorker replied, "I knew Philadelphia was dead, but I didn't know it was laid out."

Profanity

1080. "Grand Coulee," shouted the bishop when he hit his thumb with a hammer.

"Why Grand Coulee?" asked a friend.

"Well," said the bishop, "that's the world's biggest dam."

1081. Little Johnny, five, was addicted to profanity, a habit which caused great concern to his mother. One day he got an invitation to a birthday party, and his mother said to him:

"Johnny, I've instructed Mrs. Wilson to send you home the minute you use any bad words."

Twenty minutes after he was sent to the party, Johnny returned home. His mother would allow no excuses, and sent him to bed without his supper. A few minutes later she relented and went upstairs to see him.

"Johnny, why did Mrs. Wilson send you home? Now tell me the truth—what did you do?"

"Do? Do, hell! I didn't do nothin'. That damn party ain't 'til next week!"

Professional fees

1082. At the lunch counter:

"Do you think if I have onion with my hamburger I'll get heartburn?"

"For 75 cents you get a hamburger! $3.00 is the charge for medical advice."

1083. A chronic alcoholic visited a psychiatrist to be cured of the drinking habit. It worked—now he can't afford to drink.

1084. Perry Como asked Pearl Bailey, guest star on his television show, whether she ever sang for the pleasure of singing. She replied, "Well, if you'll examine that musical scale, you'll find it begins and ends with 'dough.' "

1085. A patient went to her surgeon's office to pay the bill for her operation. When she was admitted to see him and while engaged in making out her check, she raised her head, looked him in the eye and said: "I knew that when you operated you wore a mask but what I didn't know was that you use a gun."

1086. RUBY: "Lucille, how much is that lawyer going to charge you for handling your divorce suit?"

LUCILLE: "Oh, he's not charging me anything! You see, he's an old friend of my husband's, and he's doing that as a favor to him."

1087. The irate psychiatrist had had just about enough arguing with his stubborn patient.

"I'm warning you, Simkims," he snapped finally. "If you don't pay my bill, I'll let you go crazy!"

1088. PATIENT: "Doctor, what I need is something to stir me up—something to put me in fighting trim. Did you put anything like that in this prescription?"

DOCTOR: "No. You will find that in the bill."

1089. Enrico Caruso once agreed to sing at a charity dinner, then submitted a bill for $3,000. It was too late to alter any plans—all tickets had been sold. At the dinner Caruso gave the chairman a check for $10,000 and said, "Caruso, the singer, gets paid. Caruso, the man, gives gladly."

1090. The man was choking on a chicken bone. He was rushed to the doctor who removed it. "What do I owe you?" he asked.

"At least half of what you were ready to pay when the bone was still in your throat," replied the doctor.

1091. An investment counselor once presented a client a suggested portfolio for all but $10,000 of the client's savings.

"What shall I do with the remaining $10,000?" asked the man.

"That," said the expert, "you give to me."

1092. LAWYER: "Here's my bill for services. You can pay me $500 down and the balance at $60 per month for 24 months."

SMALL CONTRACTOR: "Sounds like buying an automobile."

LAWYER: "I am."

1093. "That lawyer of mine sure has got his nerve."

"Why so?"

"Well, listen to this item on his bill: 'For waking up in the middle of the night and thinking over your case, $25.'"

1094. After the wedding ceremony, the happy bridegroom said to the parson, "Shall I give you your usual honorarium now or shall I wait a year and send you a real big contribution?"

Without any hesitation the preacher answered, "I'll take the usual right now, if you don't mind."

1095. Adelina Patti asked $100,000 for a certain three-month concert tour.

"But," objected an impresario, "that's more than the President gets!"

"Well," shrugged the diva, "then get the President."

1096. The young couple had just finished going over their month's bills and were down to the last two.

"Gosh, honey," said the man, "we're practically broke. I don't know which to pay—the electric company or the doctor."

"Oh, the electric company, of course," answered the wife. "After all, the doctor can't shut off your blood."

1097. A man suffering from amnesia went to see a psychiatrist.

"I'm sure I can help you," said the psychiatrist. "My fee will be $50 an hour."

The prospective patient let out a yell.

"Doc," he exclaimed, "you just shocked me into remembering who I am, and the guy I am can't afford that kind of money!"

1098. While trying to solve a plumbing crisis at his home, an Indiana physician was interrupted by a phone call. Could the doctor come right over to see the man's sick son? The physician explained that the caller had caught him with his pipes down. "Well, I'm a plumber," the other fellow said. "You come fix the boy, and I'll go to your place and fix the plumbing."

The deal was closed, and worked out fine—until the end of the month. The doctor's bill was $5, the plumber's $7.

1099. After being examined by the doctor, an old mountaineer was given definite instructions as to what he should do. Just as he was about to leave the office, the doctor said, "Look here, you forgot to pay me."

"Pay yuh fer what?" countered the old hillbilly.

"For my professional advice," replied the doctor.

"No, sir," he said, "made up my mind ah ain't goin' to take it."

Then he promptly left.

1100. The heavily jeweled dowager was consulting a specialist.

"What will the operation of lifting my face cost, doctor?" she asked.

"Five thousand dollars, madame."

"That's robbery," she protested. "Isn't there something less expensive I could try?"

"You might try wearing a veil," he answered.

1101. The doctor was fuming when he finally reached his table at a civic dinner, after breaking away from a woman who sought advice on a personal health problem.

"Do you think I should send her a bill?" the doctor asked a lawyer who sat next to him.

"Why not?" the lawyer replied. "You rendered professional services by giving advice."

"Thanks," the physician said. "I think I'll do that."

When the doctor went to his office the next day to dispatch the bill to the annoying woman, he found a letter from the lawyer. It read:

"For legal services, $25."

1102. When the caller rang the doctor's bell, the door was opened by the physician's small daughter.

"Is the doctor at home?" asked the caller pleasantly.

"No, sir," replied the child. "He's out at the moment performing an appendectomy."

"My," said the visitor, "that's a very big word for a little girl like you to use. Do you know what it means?"

"Oh, yes," the youngster announced, "it means $200 for daddy."

1103. The preacher had tied the knot and was filling out the certificate. The young man, who appeared very nervous, spoke at last. "How much do I owe you?"

The parson smiled. "As much as you think the girl's worth."

The young man handed him a dollar, which the minister took without comment. The young man was reluct-

ant in leaving; in fact, the minister thought he wasn't going to get rid of the couple.

"Have I forgotten anything?" he finally asked.

Said the young man, "Yes, sir, my change."

1104. By prescribing the use of various medications, the internal medicine specialist had successfully treated a serious renal condition in one of his female patients and in so doing had saved her kidney. In due course he rendered a bill for $1500 for his services. This brought the husband running into the office complaining about the "exorbitant" charge. "Why," he said, "Dr. Jones had been willing to operate and remove the diseased kidney for only half that amount and all you did was to give her medicine and advice."

1105. A seedy-looking circuit rider always made his rounds on a superbly groomed horse. Riding up to his country church one Sunday morning, he found several members waiting in the yard. After greeting him cordially, one of the elders asked, "Parson, no offense meant, but why does your horse's coat always look so much better than yours?"

The circuit rider looked his congregation over carefully before replying, "Well, it's like this—I take care of my horse; my congregation takes care of *me!*"

1106. Early in his legal career, Wyoming's former Governor, Milward Simpson, got an acquittal for a moonshiner. "How much do I owe you, kid?" asked the client.

"Three hundred dollars," suggested Simpson.

The acquitted defendant pulled out a roll of bills and started counting. When he reached the $200 mark, there came a scream of pain from a lady patient in the dentist's office next door. The client never stopped counting but asked:

"Is that a lawyer's office, too?"

1107. Several Italian conductors, among them Toscanini and Mascagni, were once asked to participate in a gala festival in Milan honoring the composer Verdi. Mascagni,

composer of *Cavalleria Rusticana*, was jealous of Toscanini's fame and agreed to direct on one condition—that he be paid more than Toscanini. He didn't care, he said, if it was only one lira more, but it had to be more. The management agreed. At the close of the festival, when Mascagni received his fee, he found it was exactly one lira. Toscanini had conducted for nothing.

Progress

1108. "Getting ahead in this world is a great struggle," the businessman advised a high school student. "As a boy, I began at the bottom. I slaved, planned and perspired climbing the ladder of life rung by rung."

"Now, you are a big success," the youth commented.

"Well, no," the businessman commented frankly, "but I'm certainly getting good at climbing ladders."

Proof

1109. "How can I tell mushrooms from toadstools and other fungi?"

"Eat some upon retiring. If you wake up next morning, they're mushrooms."

1110. How to tell whether your goldfish is a boy or a girl: "To the water in the goldfish bowl add one-half ounce of sulphuric acid. If he comes floating to the top, he's a boy. If she comes floating to the top, she's a girl."

1111. Overheard in Jackson Park: Two little girls were discussing the time of day.

"All I know," said one, "is that it isn't four o'clock yet."

"How can you tell?" asked the other.

"Well," continued the first little girl, "my mother told me to be sure and get home by four o'clock and I'm not home."

1112. Q. You say you were married? How and where was this marriage performed, Mrs. Smith?

A. In my home. One day his mother says to me, "I hear you and Bill are married." I says, "Yes, we are." That night I said to Bill, "Bill, your mother thinks we are married." He says, "Then, gal, we are married, you are my wife from now on." And I said, "Well, then you are my husband from now on." He said, "Okay, honey," and I said, "Okay, lover boy."

Q. And from that time on did you consider yourself to be the wife of William Smith?

A. I sure did, and have five children to prove it.

Psychiatrist. See also *Psychiatry*

1113. A psychiatrist reported half his patients went to him because they weren't married, while the other half went to him because they were.

1114. Two psychiatrists were out playing golf. One missed the putt and said, "Nuts!" The second one said, "Please, let's not talk shop!"

1115. A man went to the psychiatrist and told him he wanted help because he thought he was a dog. When the psychiatrist asked him how long he had been thinking he was a dog, he replied, "Ever since I was a puppy."

1116. The beautiful young lady went to the psychiatrist's office for her first visit. The doctor looked at her for a few seconds, then said: "Come over here, please." He promptly put his arm around her and kissed her. As he finally released her, he commented briskly, "That takes care of my problem. Now what's yours?"

1117. A lady, threatened with nervous prostration, was persuaded to consult a psychiatrist. After the first interview, he gave her a list of the things she was to do and avoid doing, and made an appointment for a week later. She didn't keep the appointment and when the psychiatrist telephoned to ask why, she said: "Doctor, you told me to keep away from people who irritate me, and I

don't know anyone who has ever irritated me more than you."

1118. "I need your advice," a patient told a psychiatrist, "because I have developed the habit of making frequent long-distance telephone calls to myself."

"Making numerous long-distance calls to yourself sounds like a rather expensive habit," the psychiatrist said.

"It doesn't cost me a penny," the patient replied, "Because I always reverse the charges."

Psychiatry

1119. Sometimes you go to a psychiatrist when you're slightly cracked and keep going until you're completely broke.

1120. "I wouldn't worry if your son makes mud pies," the psychiatrist said. "It's quite normal."

"Well," said the mother. "I don't think it is and neither does his wife."

1121. A famous psychiatrist conducting a university course in psychopathology was asked by a student, "Doctor, you've told us about the abnormal person and his behavior; but what about the normal person?"

"If we ever find him," replied the psychiatrist, "we'll cure him."

1122. Two women friends ran into each other at the door of a psychiatrist's office.

"Hello, there," said one. "Are you coming or going?"

"If I knew *that*," was the reply, "I wouldn't be here!"

1123. This is about the woman who went to her psychiatrist and said, "Doctor, I want to talk to you about my husband. He thinks he's a refrigerator."

"That's not so bad," said the doctor, "it's a rather harmless complex."

"Well, maybe," replied the lady, "but he sleeps with his mouth open, and the light keeps me awake."

1124. The little brat rode the hobby horse in the toy department for hours. His doting parents pleaded, offered bribes, but to no avail. Their darling wouldn't budge. Finally, jolly old Santa walked over to the child and whispered into his ear. The kid was off in a jiffy.

On the way home, the curious mother asked, "What did Santa say to you, sweetie, that made you jump off the horse?"

The little monster replied, "He said, 'Get the devil off that horse, or I'll break your neck.' "

1125. The famous psychiatrist had just completed a lecture at the town hall when he was approached by none other than the city's leading citizen, himself. "Tell me, professor," said the town official, "how can you tell when a person is insane?" "One begins," replied the professor, "by asking any question well within the scope of any normal person. For instance, Captain Cook made three trips around the world and met his death on one of these. On which one of these trips did he die?" "Couldn't you ask me some other question?" responded the town official. "I'm not very well up on explorations."

1126. The doctor, an eminent psychiatrist, began the customary questions with the patient:

"Let's see; if I cut off one of your ears, what will happen?"

"A misfortune."

"Very well, and if I cut off the two?"

"Then I will no longer be able to see clearly."

The psychiatrist thought about the reply and finally said: "Think about the answer--if I cut off your two ears, what will happen?"

"I repeat that I will no longer be able to see clearly."

"But why?"

"Well, because I won't have any place to hook my glasses."

1127. A visitor to the insane asylum asked the attendant how they decided when a patient was well enough to send home.

"Well," said the attendant, "the doctors are too overworked to check all the patients, so we turn on the faucet that supplies that big trough over there. We leave the water running and tell the patients to take buckets and empty all the water out of the trough."

"How does that show anything?" asked the visitor.

"Well, a patient who is cured will turn the faucet off."

"Well, I declare," marveled the visitor. "I never would have thought of that."

1128. A patient was brought to a psychiatrist by friends, who informed the doctor that the man was suffering from delusions that a huge fortune was awaiting him. He was expecting two letters which would give him details involving deeds to a rubber plantation in Sumatra and titles to some mines in South America.

"It was a difficult case and I worked hard on it," the psychiatrist told some colleagues. "And just when I had the man cured—the two letters arrived!"

1129. A man went into a bar and ordered a glass of beer. He drank half of it and threw the rest over the bartender. Then he apologized profusely.

"It's a nervous compulsion I have. I'm terribly embarrassed by it," he explained.

"You'd better consult a psychiatrist," the bartender said.

Several months later the man came back to the bar and did the same thing again. The bartender was naturally indignant.

"I thought you were going to see a psychiatrist," he said.

"I've been seeing one," said the man.

"It certainly hasn't done you much good."

"Oh, yes it has," the man replied. "I'm not embarrassed about it any more."

1130. A young psychoanalyst was complaining to an old veteran psychoanalyst that he was having trouble with his patients.

The veteran said: "Let's assume I'm a patient being interviewed by you for the first time . . . "The first question," began the young analyst. "What is it that wears a skirt and from whose lips come pleasure?" The veteran answered: "A Scot blowing his bagpipe." . . . "Right," said the younger one. "The next question, What is it that has delightful curves and at unexpected moments becomes uncontrollable?" The veteran answered: "Bob Feller's pitching." . . . "Right," said the younger one. "The final question, What do you think of when two arms are slipped around your shoulders?" The veteran answered: "Sid Luckman's tackle." . . . "Right," said the young analyst. "They're all right, but you'd be amazed at the silly answers I keep getting."

1131. A man went into a store and bought some groceries. As he was waiting for his change, he kicked the clerk in the leg. Then he apologized.

"I'm terribly sorry," he explained. "It's a nervous compulsion I have."

"If I were you," said the clerk, "I would see a psychiatrist."

A month later the man returned to the store. This time nothing happened.

"I see you are cured," said the clerk. "Did you see a psychiatrist?"

"I certainly did," replied the man.

"How did he cure you?"

"Well," said the man, "when I kicked him in the leg, he kicked me back."

1132. A father complained to a psychiatrist friend that his two teen-age daughters and their boy friends were too fond of jazz to have any serious interests.

"Buy a good hi-fi and some classical recordings," the psychiatrist advised. "By taking advantage of their

natural inclination toward music, you see, you can subtly channelize them in another direction."

A few weeks later the men met again. "Did you do as I suggested?" the psychiatrist asked. The father said he had. "Ah! And has it produced results?" the psychiatrist asked.

"Well, it's produced something," the father said glumly. "We now have the only house in the neighborhood where they jitterbug to Beethoven's 'Moonlight Sonata.' "

Psychology

1133. "Child psychology, as a rule," says a child psychologist, "always works better when it is applied like paint—with a brush."

1134. When Balzac, the French novelist, first visited Vienna, he was unfamiliar with the language and the currency. Whenever he took a cab he did not know how much fare to pay, nor could he understand the driver.

Experience had taught Balzac, however, that money speaks a universal language. Upon arriving at his destination, he would hand the taxi driver a single coin. If the man kept his hand outstretched, he would add another coin. Slowly adding one coin after another, Balzac would carefully watch the driver's face.

The moment a smile appeared there, Balzac knew he had given one coin too many. He would take back the last coin and leave the cab.

Public Office

1135. Many years ago Dwight W. Morrow, the father of Anne Lindbergh, told a group of friends that Calvin Coolidge had real presidential possibilities. They unanimously disagreed, saying that Coolidge was too quiet, and lacked color and political personality. "No one would like him," objected one sage.

But up piped little Anne, then aged six: "I like Mr. Coolidge." Then she displayed a finger with a bit of adhesive tape on it. "He was the only one who asked me about my sore finger."

Mr. Morrow nodded. "There's your answer," he said.

1136. One of our ex-Presidents was visiting a famous eastern university. On the way to the graduation exercises, he was conversing with a charming woman who was also going to speak to the graduating class.

Up until this point he had been carrying her wrap, but now he gave it to her and said, "I think you'd better carry this yourself. If we should be separated and I were to be found with the wrap, I might be accused of having stolen it."

The lady replied laughingly, "Are you accustomed to such accusations?"

"My dear woman," he replied. "I'm accustomed to anything. I was President of the United States."

Public speaking. See also *Introduction of Speaker*

1137. During a pause in a long, tiring speech, one guest said to another, "What follows this speaker?"

SECOND GUEST: "Wednesday."

1138. "I guess I'm not cut out for public speaking," moans a friend. "Every time I stand up to make a few remarks, my mind sits down."

1139. The only after-dinner speech of mine that goes down well is when at home I turn to my wife and say, "You leave 'em, dear, I'll do them."

1140. A woman speaker delighted a dinner club by announcing: "Miss So-and-So is our only speaker today. The rest of the program is entertainment."

1141. Asked to what he owed his success, a Negro minister said: "First I tells 'em what I am going to talk

about. Then I talk about it. Then I tells 'em what I have been talking about."

1142. In an address before a group of clubwomen, Kent Leavitt, conservationist, said, "I always like speaking to ladies. When I talk to men I know that what I say goes in one ear and out the other. But what I tell ladies goes in both ears and comes out the mouth."

1143. Winston Churchill once gave this advice to speakers: "Don't be nervous. Do just as I do. Whenever I get up to speak, I always make a point of taking a good look around the audience. Then I say to myself, 'What a lot of silly fools.' And then I always feel better."

1144. Oliver Wendell Holmes handled the question of topics for public functions in the following manner: "My fee," he was wont to say, "if I select the subject, is $ 150; if your committee selects the subject, the charge is $ 250, but in either case the speech is the same."

1145. "I'm going to give a series of lectures on Russia," said the ambitious young man.

"But you've never been there," exclaimed his friend.

"Well, neither have the people who will hear me," replied the ambitious one.

1146. THE AFTER-DINNER SPEAKER: "Now, gentlemen, I've said all I have to say, and I'll conclude with a story about the little boy in an anatomy class, who was asked to describe the spine. 'It's a long, grisly kind of bone,' he said. 'The head rests on the top. At the other end—well, that's where I sit down!' "—and down he went.

1147. A guest on the speaker's platform was unexpectedly called upon to make a speech. He stammered for a moment, apologized for coming unprepared, then looked at the chairman and quoted Jonah's admonition to the whale:

"If you had kept your big mouth closed, I wouldn't be in this predicament now."

1148. A colonel was speaking at a dinner given in his honor before embarking for Africa. In concluding he said:

"I thank you for your kind wishes regarding my welfare on my dangerous journey, and I want you to know that when I am far away, surrounded by ugly, grinning savages, I shall always think of you."

1149. At a luncheon in honor of Spyros Skouras, the introductions seemed interminable. When the movie magnate was finally introduced and stood up clutching a bulky, prepared speech, the guests could hardly conceal their restlessness. Then Skouras endeared himself to all of them. "Friends," he said, "it's so late I've decided just to mail each of you a copy of this speech." Then he bowed and sat down.

1150. Airplane pioneers Wilbur and Orville Wright, a taciturn duo, hated to make speeches. Once, at a luncheon, they were scheduled to speak before a group of inventors. The toastmaster called on Wilbur.

"There must be some mistake," stammered Wilbur. "Orville is the one who does the talking."

The toastmaster turned to Orville. The latter stood up and said:

"Wilbur just made the speech."

1151. It was a women's meeting, and a prominent authoress rose and went to the mike. As she began, she was aware of a hissing from the wings. A man in overalls, obviously an engineer, stood there with a screwdriver. The lady chairman went to investigate.

She returned, rather flustered, and brushing past the speaker, said: "Before we continue, I have a very unhappy piece of news to communicate. Word has been given me from the wings that there is a screw loose in our speaker."

1152. A high school teacher who had an unruly class and also a sense of humor came in one morning and found

bedlam broke loose. He slapped his palm on the desk and lifted his voice. "I demand pandemonium," he said.

A hush fell on the class as though he'd demanded quiet.

"Just proves," this teacher declared, "that it ain't what you say but how you say it."

1153. That clergyman was an expert in human relations who was disturbed during a sermon by some noisy persons. He did not scold or manifest any sign of anger.

"I am always reluctant," he said quietly, "to expose those who misbehave during services, because of an experience I had some years ago. A young man who sat in front of me was laughing and making grimaces. I was annoyed and rebuked him severely. Later I was told that I had made a grave mistake. The man I had reproved was an idiot."

The noise-makers subsided.

1154. Back in the days when the West was really the West, a New York lawyer was invited to address a meeting in a cattle town. The speech was obviously a failure, and at its conclusion he was alarmed to see three grim-faced cattlemen, equipped with guns and lassos headed for the speaker's table.

An elderly man, seated nearby, tapped the Easterner on the shoulder, "Jest set still, son. They ain't nobody gonna harm you. Them fellas is a-comin' fer the program chairman."

1155. "What is a statesman?" asked the teacher.

"A man who goes about making speeches," answered the five-year-old.

"Fair, but not quite correct," said the teacher. "I myself sometimes make speeches, but I am not a statesman."

"I know," returned the youngster, smiling brightly, "a statesman is a man who makes good speeches!"

1156. A boy was making his first public address and some friends were present to criticize and make some suggestions. After it was over he said to one of them, "Well, how did you like it?"

One man said: "Your address was all right but I did not like your gestures."

"Gestures!" he replied, "I didn't have the gestures—I had the hives."

1157. In a speech to a group of journalists, David Low, the celebrated cartoonist, said that every time he had to make a speech he felt as if he had a block of ice nine inches by nine, right in the pit of his stomach. After the speech was over, Low was approached by Mr. Lloyd George, who was one of the audience. "How large did you say that block of ice was, Mr. Low?" "Nine inches by nine," said Low. "What an amazing coincidence," responded Lloyd George. "Exactly the same size as mine."

1158. An old lecturer died in extreme poverty, so some of his friends decided to collect the few dollars necessary to give him a decent burial.

They did not meet with much success until they called on a man who seemed to show a little interest when the word "lecturer" was mentioned.

"How much did you say you wanted?" he asked.

"Five dollars."

"Well," said he, "here's twenty-five—go and bury five of 'em!"

1159. At the close of an address, New York Representative Emanuel Celler was approached by a feminine admirer who asked if she might have his notes as a souvenir. The Congressman said that he had no notes. She said she would be satisfied with a transcript of the address. But no transcript had been made.

"Do you think there's any possibility of your speech being published?" the woman persisted.

"Maybe posthumously," replied Celler jokingly.

"Well," she said, "let's hope it's soon."

1160. "My father was a man of great intellectual energy," said Woodrow Wilson. "My best training came from him. I carried everything I wrote to him. He would make me read it aloud. Every now and then he would stop me:

'What do you mean by that?' he'd ask. I would tell him, and of course in doing so would express myself more simply than I had on paper. 'Why don't you say so?' he would go on. 'Don't shoot at your meaning with birdshot and hit the whole countryside; shoot with a rifle at the thing you have to say.' "

1161. A New York couple decided to spend their vacation in Baltimore, where they were born and raised. En route they visited the battlefield at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The guide who showed them around waxed eloquent about Northern strategy and Northern heroism. They thanked him, paid the usual fee, and happened to drop the remark that they must be getting home to Baltimore before dark.

The guide's face dropped. "Gosh, from your license plates I took you for New York folks. I should have given you the Southern lecture—matter of fact, I like it better myself."

1162. When Edmund Burke was delivering his famous speech against Warren Hastings, he suddenly stopped in the very middle of an idea. Slowly and impressively he raised his hand and pointed his index finger at Mr. Hastings. He stood for almost a minute with that dramatic pointing finger while the audience almost held its breath. Then he went on.

Afterward, one of the opposing advocates said, "Mr. Burke, that was one of the most effective pauses I have ever seen. We in the audience simply held our breaths, wondering what you were going to say next."

"That," responded Mr. Burke, "is exactly the way I was feeling."

1163. James Russell Lowell, when concluding an after-dinner speech in England, made a happy hit by introducing the story of a Methodist preacher at a camp-meeting, of whom he had heard when he was young. He was preaching on Joshua ordering the sun to stand still: "My hearers", he said, "there are three motions of the sun; the

first is the straightforward or direct motion of the sun, the second is the retrograde or backward motion of the sun, and the third is the motion mentioned in our text—'the sun stood still.' Now gentlemen, I do not know whether you see the application of that story to after-dinner oratory. I hope you do. The after-dinner orator at first begins and goes straight forward—that is the straightforward motion of the sun; next he goes back and begins to repeat himself a little, and that is the retrograde or backward motion of the sun; and at last he has the good sense to bring himself to an end, and that is the motion mentioned in our text of the sun standing still."

Pulchritude. See *Beauty.*

Punishment. See also *Crime-Punishment*

1164. JUDGE: "I sentence you to three years at hard labor."

PRISONER: "The joke is on you, judge, because my doctor gives me only six months to live."

1165. A woman called for jury duty refused to serve because she didn't believe in capital punishment. Trying to persuade her, the judge explained: "This is merely a case where a wife is suing her husband because she gave him $1,000 to pay down on a fur coat and he lost the money in a poker game."

"I'll serve," she said. "I could be wrong about capital punishment."

Qualifications

1166. A backwoods community had a reputation for not keeping its ministers for more than three or four months. Finally the bishop sent a young preacher, and after two years he was still on the job.

Surprised, the bishop pressed for an explanation.

Reluctantly, a local townsman replied, "Well, I'd ruther not tell you. But if you insist, here's the reason: We

folks out here don't really want any preacher at all and he's the closest we've ever come to it."

1167. A horse-trader once went to Henry Ward Beecher, the great American preacher of a former generation, and said: "Mr. Beecher, I have a good family horse I want to sell you. He is a good carriage horse. He works double with any other horse and on either side of the tongue. In short, he is a good all round horse and a good team worker." Mr. Beecher replied: "My friend, I can't buy your horse, but I would like to have him as a member of my church."

Reading

1168. A library clerk commented of a woman just leaving her desk: "That woman gets more out of a mystery novel than anyone I know."

"How come?" she was asked by a co-worker.

"Well, she starts the story in the middle, so she not only wonders how it comes out, but how it began."

Real estate

1169. BUYER: "For a modern house, these walls don't seem very sturdy."

SELLER: "Well, maybe, but they're not painted yet."

1170. "This house has both advantages and disadvantages," said the real estate salesman. "And to show you what an honest man I am, I'll tell you about the disadvantages. In the first place, the stockyards are half a mile to the west. North is a rubber factory. Two blocks east there's a hide and tallow renderer. And not very far south is the vinegar works."

"What are the advantages?" gulped the prospective purchaser.

"You can always tell which way the wind is blowing."

Recognition

1171. A mediocre contemporary of Mozart always wore a row of decorations which had been bestowed upon him. A fawning friend once observed to an admirer of Mozart: "Look at all *his* medals—and Mozart hasn't *one!*"

"Yes," was the smiling reply, "Mozart doesn't need any!"

1172. In a New England resort town there was a man so homely that he was the butt of every practical joke that his town folks could think up. A plastic surgeon who visited the resort on a vacation was so touched by his ugliness that he offered to change the man's face without charge.

"In fact," he said, "just for the heck of it, I'll do some plastic surgery that will make you the handsomest man in New England."

Just before he put the man under the knife, the surgeon said: "Do you want me to change your face completely?"

"No," answered the man, "not too much. I want the fellows to know who it is who's so handsome."

Relatives

1173. With the progress in today's transportation, there's no such thing as a distant relative.

1174. Little Algernon, addressing an old lady who had just arrived and whom he had never seen before said:

ALGERNON: "Oh, so you're my grandma, are you."

GRANDMA: "Yes, on your father's side."

ALGERNON: "Well, you're on the wrong side. I don't mind telling you that right now."

Religion

1175. A young couple were starting on their honeymoon and she said to him: "Henry, I've got a confession to make to you, I'm a somnambulist."

"That's all right," said Henry, "you go to your church and I'll go to mine."

1176. One day a Gentile friend took Nathan, the wise, kind, understanding, gentle Jew, by the shoulder and said, "Nathan, thou art not a Jew but a Christian." With twinkling eyes Nathan replied, "My friend, those qualities which you see in me and call Christian, I see in you and call Jew."

1177. A soldier asked to be excused from attending chapel, saying that he was a non-believer.

"Do you mean," asked the captain, "that you don't believe in the Ten Commandments?"

The soldier said he didn't believe.

"You don't believe in keeping the Sabbath holy?"

"That is correct, sir."

"Ah," mused the captain. "Then you're just the man I have been looking for. You can spend Sundays scrubbing the latrines!"

1178. Three young men, arguing heatedly about the merits of their respective churches, turned to a white-haired old-timer, and asked, "What's your denomination, Mr. Crawford?"

"Well, boys," he answered slowly, "somehow it seems to go sorta like this: There's three roads to the city—the long road, the short road, and the road through the swamps—but when I get to town with my load of corn the man doesn't say, 'Mr. Crawford, which road did you come by?' But instead he asks, 'Mr. Crawford, how good is your corn?' "

1179. Six-year-old Dorothy had a playmate younger than herself whose parents adhered strictly to the tenets of the Christian Science Church. One day she said to her mother: "Mother, do you know it is better to be a Christian Scientist than anything else?"

"Why?" asked the mother.

"Well, Julia has 'splained it to me; if you get cross with another little girl and knock her down, if you are a

Christian Scientist you won't have to apologize because it won't hurt her any."

Reputation

1180. It was to offset Jack Dempsey's reputation as a rough, tough hombre that Gene Tunney was built up as a gentleman boxer before their first battle for the world's championship. The campaign turned slightly sour when wise-crackers laughed at stories of Tunney reading Shakespeare.

An innocent young interviewer cornered Tunney one day for a story. "And have you ever written anything yourself, Mr. Tunney?"

Tunney reddened with anger. "No!" he thundered. "There are enough people sore at me because I can read. What do you suppose they would say if they thought I could write, too?"

1181. The widow of a wealthy but irreverent man wished to have an imposing funeral for her departed husband, and engaged the services of a noted preacher who lived at a great distance from their town. After the funeral she thanked the eloquent man for his long and beautiful discourse. The minister said to her:

"Madam, when I passed through your town, I noticed quite a number of churches. As your husband always lived here, he must have been known to the ministers of this place. I am at a loss to know why you engaged me to speak at his funeral, as I am a stranger to him and they knew him."

"The reason I employed you to speak was that the others knew him too well," answered the widow.

1182. A famous preacher was spending a holiday in a village where he was unknown by face. In the church one Sunday morning, the preacher not arriving, he was invited to preach and afterwards was politely and rather formally thanked. In the course of the week it leaked out that the great Dr. Jowett was in the village; the church

leaders invited him to preach. Jowett said, "But I did preach last Sunday and you did not seem greatly impressed." "No," they replied, "but we did not know it was you."

Resourcefulness

1183. "Not really, Jack! But how did you get an heiress to marry you?"

"Simple. I gave her 25 roses on her 33rd birthday."

1184. An unusually attractive girl serving tables in a popular restaurant catering mostly to men solved the telephone number problem by giving the number of a pest control service. When the hopeful Lotharios called they quickly got the point.

1185. A taxi driver, his garbage uncollected, tried leaving it in a neat package on his cab's back seat. Said he, "It works. I watched one woman through the mirror. She spent five minutes stuffing it into her shopping bag."

1186. "Conductor," complained the passenger, "that fellow sitting opposite is a lunatic. He's scaring my wife and children. He claims he's George Washington."

"I'll take care of that," said the conductor helpfully. Then he shouted, "Next stop. Mount Vernon!"

1187. A father was telling a neighbor how he stopped his son from being late to high school. "I bought him a car," he said.

"How did that stop him from being late?" the neighbor asked.

"Why, he's got to get there early to find a parking place."

1188. A tourist, driving through Texas, overtook a young man running along the road. He stopped and invited the perspiring runner to get in.

"An emergency, I suppose?" the driver asked.

"No," puffed the young man. "I always run like that when I want a ride. It seldom fails."

1189. During a Shriners' convention in Los Angeles one of the downtown boulevards was roped off for a parade. Only official cars with large signs such as *Potentate* and *Past Potentate* were allowed there; all other traffic was halted or rerouted. But one ingenious Californian got by the police blockade and drove nonchalantly down the street. His placard read: *Past Participle*!

1190. An enterprising budding author had his first book published but its sales record was not pleasing, so he inserted an ad in the paper:

"Millionaire, young, good-looking, wishes to meet, with a view to matrimony, a girl like the heroine in recent novel written by James Gwathney."

Within 24 hours, the novel was sold out.

1191. The dean of a girls' school was troubled because the girls insisted on crossing the street in front of the school without going to the corner. Warnings, penalties, and lectures did no good. Then the dean had a sign painted and set it up in the middle of the block. From that time on, the girls always walked to the corner to cross the street. What did the sign say? "Cattle Crossing!"

1192. A movie house showing a popular thriller-diller was being picketed, but crowds continued to throng into the movie. Union officials decided a drastic step was necessary.

The next day a lone picket stood silently by the box office. His sign read: "The hero's uncle did it."

1193. The old storekeeper, who was also the community's postmaster, was a real go-getter. He had no helper, and when he had to leave his store to meet the mail train he was tormented by thoughts of tourists stopping for gas and soft drinks and finding him gone.

Finally he hit upon a shrewd solution. He printed a sign in bold letters which explained everything during his enforced absences:

BACK IN 15 MINUTES ALREADY BEEN GONE 10

1194. A lady commissioned a painter to decorate the bathroom of her apartment during a period when she was to be out of town. She gave the workman an ash tray enameled in the exact color desired.

For two days the painter struggled in vain to mix the required shade. But happily when the lady returned and gazed upon his handiwork, she was enraptured by the perfect match obtained. "And to this day," chuckles the painter, "she doesn't know that I repainted that fool ash tray with the same paint I put on the bathroom!"

1195. One bright, sunny Alabama day, two children came trudging down the street—an eight-year-old girl solicitously leading her younger brother, who had his eyes tightly shut. A watching passer-by asked, "What's the matter? Has he hurt his eyes?"

"Oh, no," was the girl's casual reply. "We do this every Saturday when the sun's so bright. He keeps his eyes closed and I lead him to the movies. Inside he opens his eyes and finds us both a seat in the dark."

1196. Scott had lent some money to an acquaintance and was beginning to despair of ever getting it back. He mentioned the problem to a friend.

"Send him a letter," the friend suggested, "demanding the one thousand dollars he owes you."

"But he only owes me a hundred," Scott objected.

"Sure, he'll answer your letter by telling you he owes you only a hundred and not a thousand. That will serve as your I.O.U."

1197. In the early days, when actors toured the country with road shows, various methods were devised for finding suitable lodgings in some of the smaller towns. One clever scheme consisted of ringing the bell of a rooming house. When the landlady answered the door she was asked if she would like to take advantage of a good buy

in insect powder. If she became indignant and proclaimed, "I should say not, I have no use for it," the actor would then announce, "Good, then I'd like to take the room you advertised as vacant."

1198. The two little boys who were lost in the woods were found just at dusk by a ranger who started to take them home. "Oh, please, Mr. Forest Ranger," pleaded the older, "don't take us home until it's completely dark."

"But why, little one?" inquired the adult.

"Because if you take us home now we'll be punished for getting lost, but if we're not home when it's dark they'll notify the police and announce it on the radio and then when we get home they'll be so glad to see us that they'll give us candy and won't even scold us."

1199. Discussing problems concerning teen-agers, one woman asked her neighbor, "Is your son hard to get out of bed in the morning?"

"No," replied the other. "I just open his door and throw the cat on his bed."

The neighbor was puzzled. "How," she asked, "does that awaken him?"

Replied the other, "He sleeps with the dog."

1200. A young woman who had parked her car in forbidden territory returned some two hours later to espy from afar a large and patient policeman sitting in its front seat awaiting his prey.

Making a quick decision, she stepped into a taxi, rode home, and telephoned the police that her car had been stolen.

An hour later the car was returned to her door by the same traffic officer, quite proud of his alertness.

1201. An Atlanta lawyer who bought a new home wanted to fence in his yard, but he was a little short on cash. However, he had an idea. Some time before he moved, he sent his doghouse out to his new place and had it installed in the back yard. It was a big doghouse which

bespoke a big dog that would soon be making his appearance in the neighborhood.

When the lawyer moved to his home, he had only to fence the back line of his yard and get a long gate for the front. His neighbors had already fenced in the two other sides.

1202. The mother went shopping with her small son, Charles. In the store, the grocer invited Charles to a handful of cherries but the boy seemed very backward.

"Don't you like cherries?" asked the grocer.

"Yes," said the boy.

The grocer put his hand in and dumped a generous portion in the little fellow's cap which he had promptly held out. Later, his mother asked him why he had not taken the cherries when first invited.

She quickly received the answer, " 'Cause his hand was bigger'n mine."

1203. A farmer and a professor were traveling together when the professor suggested asking riddles to pass the time. "Every time you miss a riddle you give me a dollar, and everytime I miss, I'll give you a dollar."

"You're better educated than I am," replied the farmer. "I'll give you 50 cents." The professor agreed and told the farmer to make up the first riddle.

"What has three legs walking and two legs flying?" The professor gave up and handed over the dollar. The farmer didn't know either and handed back 50 cents.

1204. Mr. Spurgeon on one occasion was much annoyed by three young men persisting in wearing their hats in the Tabernacle. He appeared for the time not to notice them, but proceeded to tell his audience of a visit he paid to a Jewish synagogue. "When I entered," he said, "I took off my hat, but was informed that the great mark of respect was to keep it on. I did so, though I can assure you that I felt very strange wearing my hat in a place of worship. And now, as I paid this mark of respect to the synagogue, may I ask those three Jews in the gallery to

conform equally to our rules and kindly uncover their heads." The young men "collapsed."

1205. An 1875 newspaper advertisement, quoted in *Geographical Review*:

Glorious opportunity to get rich. We are starting a cat ranch in Lacon with 100,000 cats. Each cat will average 12 kittens a year. The catskins will sell for 30 cents each. One hundred men can skin 5000 cats a day. We figure a daily profit of over $10,000. Now what shall we feed the cats? We will start a rat ranch next door with one million rats. The rats will breed 12 times faster than the cats. So we will have 4 rats to feed each day to each cat. Now what shall we feed the rats? We will feed the rats the carcasses of the cats after they have been skinned. Now Get This! We feed the rats to the cats and the cats to the rats and get the skins for nothing.

1206. Charles MacArthur and Ben Hecht once collaborated in writing a play which appeared on Broadway under the title "Swan Song." It was panned by all the critics but the playwrights managed to get a six-month run out of it. This is how they did it:

The collaborators made guest appearances on disc-jockey programs and played recordings of familiar songs —such as "Star Dust," "My Mammy," "Tea for Two," etc. They offered two free tickets to the first phone caller who guessed the correct title of a song. All other callers were told they'd won second prize—tickets at half price.

1207. An English lady, coming home from Switzerland, grew fidgety as her train neared the border. She had struck up an acquaintance with a very friendly fellow passenger on the journey, and now confided to him, "I mean to smuggle in this wrist watch I'm wearing, and I don't mind telling you I'm nervous as a cat about it."

A customs inspector marched into the compartment, and smiled, "I don't suppose either of you has failed to declare any dutiable objects?" Almost casually, the man

pointed to the lady's watch and said, "I believe you'll find our friend here has overlooked that little bauble."

The watch was confiscated, while the lady dissolved into tears. When the train was in motion again she upbraided the informer, "How could you be such a swine?" The man pulled a valise out from under his seat and opened it, revealing a cache of at least 100 shiny new watches. "Don't take it so hard, lady," he advised. "Help yourself to any two of them!"

Restaurant

1208. Man in restaurant to waiter: "What's our offense? We've been on bread and water for almost an hour."

1209. Three gentlemen of Manhattan's lower East Side decided to stop in at a downtown restaurant for a spot of tea. The waiter appeared with pad and pencil. "I want a glass of weak tea," ordered one.

"I'd like tea, too," said the second, "but very strong with two pieces of lemon."

"And you?" queried the waiter of the third.

"Tea for me, too, please. But be sure the glass is absolutely clean!"

In a short time the waiter was back with the order. "Which one," he asked, "gets the clean glass?"

1210. When a diner complained that he couldn't eat the soup that had been brought him, the waiter called the manager.

"I'm very sorry, sir," said the manager, "I'll call the chef."

When the chef arrived, the diner still insisted that he couldn't eat the soup.

"What's wrong with it?" demanded the chef.

"Nothing at all," calmly answered the diner, "it's just that I don't have a spoon."

1211. A diner rushed over to the manager of the restaurant. "I turned my head and someone stole my topcoat," he screamed.

"What kind of topcoat did you have?" asked the manager.

"It was a brown tweed coat with raglan sleeves," replied the customer.

"Mmmm," mused the manager, "Come to think of it, I saw a man walking out of here with that very coat on."

"Quick!" demanded the customer, "What did the guy look like."

"Terrible," sighed the manager, "the sleeves were too short for him."

1212. A man walked into a restaurant in a strange town. The waitress came over and asked him what he wanted.

Feeling lonely and in the dumps, he replied, "Two fried eggs and a kind word."

The waitress said nothing but went into the kitchen to place the order. When she came back with his food, the out-of-towner said, "Thanks for the eggs, but where's the kind word?"

The waitress leaned over and whispered into his ear, "Don't eat the eggs!"

1213. A brash man entered a high-priced restaurant, selected a choice table, sat down and unfolded a napkin over his lap. He poured a glass of water from the carafe, and then unwrapped a package of home-made sandwiches.

When the astonished manager came over to remonstrate, the sandwich-eater demanded, "Who are you?"

"I am the manager," came the icy reply.

"Just the man I want to see. Why isn't the orchestra playing?"

Retirement

1214. When a man retires and time is no longer of urgent importance, his colleagues usually present him with a watch.

1215. It was once remarked of a venerable Oxford don who refused to retire that he had all the Christian virtues except resignation.

1216. When Dr. Alan Gregg was about to retire from his position as Vice President of the Rockefeller Foundation, some of his colleagues were discussing how awful it would be after he was gone. Finally Dr. Gregg spoke up. "Relax, gentlemen," he said. "Nothing succeeds like successors."

1217. During the funeral services for a friend who had taught school for many years, the parson had many fine things to say, ending on the theme that she was probably carrying on her work in heaven.

A teacher in the group leaned over to a colleague and groaned, "Good heavens, don't we ever get to quit."

1218. Two college presidents were discussing what they'd like to do when they retired.

1st President: "I'd like to be superintendent of an orphan asylum, so I'd never get any letters from parents."

2nd President: "Well, I've a much better ambition. I want to be warden of a penitentiary. The alumni never come back to visit."

1219. Shortly after Calvin Coolidge left the White House he was called upon to fill out a card to accompany the payment of his annual dues to the National Press Club.

Mr. Coolidge filled in his name and address, and then on the line provided for "Occupation" wrote simply "Retired." After a moment's thought, in the space headed "Remarks," the ex-President added the terse comment: "Glad of it."

Revenge

1220. A Georgia farmer put this sign in front of his watermelon patch:

ONE WATERMELON IN THIS PATCH HAS BEEN POISONED

The next morning the sign had been changed to read:

TWO WATERMELONS IN THIS PATCH HAVE BEEN POISONED

1221. A clerk training to operate one of the new automated office giants, dropped a mechanical pencil into the complicated machinery.

Three days later, when, after a cost of some $20,000, the machine was repaired, her supervisor glared at her and yelled, "You're fired."

"Oh, all right," replied the clerk, "in that case I won't need this," she said, dropping the pencil back in the machinery.

1222. Enraged because her husband had left his money to someone else, the widow went at once to the monument maker to have the inscription on his tombstone changed.

"Sorry," said the man, "but you ordered 'Rest in Peace' and it can't be changed."

"Well, then," returned the widow, "just add underneath 'Till We Meet Again.'"

1223. One cold winter morning an indignant-looking lady, carrying a gallon gasoline can came trudging up to a gas station. Assuming she was out of gas somewhere along the road, the proprietor offered to drive her back to her car after he filled the can.

"Oh, no, thanks," she said grimly, as she handed it to him. "And don't fill it. Just put in enough to get me to the supermarket and back home. I'll fix my husband for leaving me with an empty tank on my day to have the car."

Reverse English

1224. COACH: "What's our star halfback looking so down-in-the-dumps about?"

QUARTERBACK: "His old man keeps writing him for money."

1225. During the first World War an American captain, walking alone near front-line trenches, came upon a young man busily writing in a note-book. The youngster, in the uniform of a British subaltern, rose quickly and saluted.

"Who are you?" asked the American.

"The Prince of Wales, sir."

The captain raised one eyebrow. "Sure, sure," he snorted.

"And who are you, sir?" persisted the Britisher.

Annoyed, the superior officer commented acidly, "The King of England. Get going."

Later in the week, in a Red Cross canteen, the pair met again, and a red-faced captain learned that the young man really was the heir to the British throne. The prince grinned and waved at the captain. "Hi, dad!" he said.

Reward

1226. PERPLEXED SAILOR TO SALVATION ARMY SPEAKER: "You mean if I sow liquor and dames, I'll reap liquor and dames?"

1227. After carefully explaining about good deeds and the crowns of glory that will be given in heaven, the Sunday school teacher asked, "Now, tell me, who will get the biggest crown?"

The children looked at one another in awkward silence until one little boy answered confidently, "The one that's got the biggest head."

1228. For many years a mining company employed a Chinese cook, and after an unusually good dinner it was decided to raise his wages.

"Why you pay me more?" the cook asked.

"Because you've been such a good cook for years."

The Chinese thought it over, then said: "You been cheating me long time, eh?"

1229. A certain Mr. Jones had just become the proud father of triplets and straight away he wrote a letter to the secretary of his local club announcing the great news. The secretary of the club mentioned the matter to several members and they got together and presented Mr. Jones with a large silver cup.

Mr. Jones was extremely pleased with the cup and promptly sat down and wrote out a grateful acknowledgment which ended as follows:

"Is this cup mine outright or do I have to win it three times?"

Romance

1230. Girls who play with fire seldom strike a match.

1231. Some girls play hard to get until they become hard to take.

1232. Don't worry about the girl who loved and lost—she may have married him.

1233. One of the best ways for a woman to catch a man is to keep her trap shut.

1234. It doesn't take much for a girl to hook a fellow—he generally supplies the line!

1235. It is often the case that when Romeo loses his capital, Juliet loses her interest.

1236. It's all right to have loved and lost—but it takes money to break in a new girl.

1237. When a fellow breaks a date, he usually has to. When a girl breaks a date she usually has two.

1238. Husband-hunting is probably the only sport in which the animal that gets caught has to buy a license.

1239. The trouble with modern girls is that they have only one ambition—to go with every Tom, Dick and marry.

1240. ONE TEEN-AGER TO ANOTHER: "He hasn't actually kissed me yet, but he has steamed my glasses a couple of times."

1241. Sometimes the law of gravity doesn't work; for instance, it's easier to pick up a girl than it is to drop her.

1242. The teen-ager sent his girl friend her first orchid with this note: "With all my love and most of my allowance."

1243. For most women, selecting a likely candidate for a husband is like buying an old house. They don't see it as it is but as it will be after remodeling.

1244. BRIDE-TO-BE TO FRIEND: "It was Christmas before I realized that Tom was getting serious. He gave me an electric blanket with dual controls."

1245. When a shy suitor protested that he was not much to look at, his prospective bride in attempting to reassure him said: "You'll be at the office most of the time."

1246. BLONDE: "How are you doing in your race to matrimony?"

BRUNETTE: "I'm on my last lap now."

1247. SALLY: "I'll never marry a man who snores."

MOTHER: "Good, but be careful how you find out!"

1248. HIM: "Darling, I'm ruined. I lost my job. I'm bankrupt. I haven't a cent."

HER: "Don't worry, sweetheart, I'll always love you—even if I never see you again."

1249. SUITOR: "I'm seeking your daughter's hand."

FATHER: "You can always find it in my pocket."

1250. Have you heard about the two engaged nudists who decided to break it up because they had been seeing too much of each other?

1251. "You see that right-winger?" asked John of Mary at a football match. "I think he's our best man this year."

"Oh, Johnny, darling, this is so sudden!" exclaimed Mary.

1252. "So your daughter is about to marry. Do you really feel she is ready for the battle of life?"

"She should be. She's been in four engagements already."

1253. FIRST OLD MAID: "Oh, Agatha, I'm going out tonight with a used car salesman."

SECOND OLD MAID: "What's the difference as long as he is healthy."

1254. "Sir," said the young man, "your daughter has promised to be my wife."

"Well," the father shrugged, "it's your own fault. What else did you expect, if you keep on hanging around here?"

1255. JACK: "How do you get a girl to marry you?"

JOHN: "Well, if she doesn't want to, you can't; but if she does, there's no way to prevent it."

1256. "Well, Willie, your sister and I are going to be married," beamed the young man. "How's that for news?"

"Holy cats!" retorted Willie. "You just findin' out?"

1257. "I married her because she saved my life."

"How did she do that?"

"She told her dad not to shoot!"

1258. PERSONAL AD: Bachelor with 40 acres of excellent land would like to make acquaintance of lady with tractor; matrimony in mind. Please send picture of tractor.

1259. *The Wall Street Journal* observes that if men behaved after marriage as they do during their engagements, there wouldn't be half as many divorces. But there would be twice as many bankruptcies.

1260. The salesgirl at the perfume counter leaned toward her young customer and whispered: "If I may, let me give you a word of advice—please don't use this if you are bluffing."

1261. "I want a pair of red, open-toed shoes with low heels," said the tall blonde to the shoe salesman.

"To go with what?" he asked.

"A short office manager," was her candid reply.

1262. "I'm not wealthy and I don't have a yacht and a convertible like Jerome Green," apologized the suitor. "But darling, I love you."

"And I love you, too," replied the girl. "But tell me more about Jerome."

1263. "Darling," said the romantic young man, "will you sail with me on the sea of holy matrimony?"

"Yes," replied his practical-minded sweetheart, "after you've made a raft."

1264. COUNTRY GIRL: "My paw's the best rifle shot in the country."

CITY LAD: "What does that make me?"

COUNTRY GIRL: "My fiance."

1265. SOPHISTICATED GIRL: "I broke my engagement to Jack. I don't love him. In fact, I detest him."

PUZZLED FRIEND: "Then why are you still wearing his ring?"

SOPHISTICATED GIRL: "Oh, but I still love this beautiful ring."

1266. HE: "Let's get married."

SHE: "All right." (Long silence.)

SHE: "Why don't you say something?"

HE: "I've said too much already."

1267. HE: "I suppose you hold that a man should never deceive his wife?"

SHE: "Oh, no. I wouldn't go so far as that. How would it be possible for the average man to get a wife if he didn't deceive her?"

1268. "Would you love me just the same if my father had lost all his money, Ole?"

"He hasn't lost it, has he?"

"No."

"Of course I would, you silly girl."

1269. HE: "Do you remember the night I asked you to marry me?"

SHE: "Yes, dear."

HE: "For a whole hour we sat there, and not a word did you speak. Ah, that was the happiest hour of my life!"

1270. The boy friend had been sitting in the living room waiting for his long-time fiancee to come down. To make chit-chat with her father, he remarked: "Did you know that I've been going with your daughter for exactly ten years?"

"Well!" said the old man, "what do you want? A pension?"

1271. Two office girls watched the delivery of one of those smaller automatic computing machines. One of them said, "I understand it does the work of several men."

"Maybe it does," admitted the other girl, "but for my part, I'll take the men."

1272. A timid lad and a girl were riding on horseback out in the country. As they stopped for a rest, the two horses rubbed necks affectionately.

"Ah, me," said the lad, finally working up some courage, "that's what I'd like to do."

"Go ahead," said the girl; "it's your horse."

1273. The elderly Scot was still up when his son returned from a courting trip.

SON: "Why are you so worried, Dad?"

DAD: "Just wondering how much the evening cost."

SON: "Just fifty cents."

DAD: "That was not so much."

SON: (simply): "It was all she had."

1274. A beautiful chorus girl sued a rich banker for breach of promise and was awarded $25,000 as damages. Shortly after leaving the courtroom, she was hit by an automobile and had eight ribs broken. The same judge awarded her only $400.

Moral: Never play with a woman's heart—kick her in the ribs.

1275. A playboy was proposing to a girl who refused to take him seriously.

"I'm fast and loose now," the playboy said, "but you'll marry me, I'll be just the opposite of what I a today."

"That's what I'm afraid of," the girl replied. "T opposite of fast and loose is slow and tight."

1276. A woman who runs a lonely hearts club has prepa ed a list of don't for women. They are: Don't be too c tical; don't be afraid to praise him; don't make hi spend too much; don't complain about minor inconv niences (some of the nicest men don't open doors dance too well); don't nag, and don't give up hope.

1277. JOHN: "And now that I've told you all of n past, do you still want to marry me?"

MARY: "I certainly do."

JOHN: "I suppose you'll expect me to live down n past?"

MARY: "Heavens! No! However, I'll expect you live up to it."

1278. "Why do you look so unhappy, pal?"

"I called on my girl last night and her mother jerke me into the hall and said: 'Young man, what are you intentions regarding my daughter?'"

"Just then my girl called from upstairs, 'Mama, th isn't the one.'"

1279. The blonde said she wanted to be an airline hos tess. "You meet a lot of men that way," she said to he friend.

"Yes," answered the friend, "but wouldn't you meet a many men doing something else?"

"Could be," said the blonde, "but not strapped down."

1280. An attractive woman hurried into a psychiatrist's office. "I'm in love with a wonderful man and he is in love with me," she said. "Both our parents are agree- able to the marriage and we feel certain that we will be happy."

"Well," said the psychiatrist, "what is your problem?"

"Oh, doctor," she moaned, "I just don't know what to tell my husband."

1281. The commuter glanced up from his newspaper and turned to his seatmate.

"It says here," he said, "that a couple got married after a courtship that lasted forty years."

"H'm," was the companion's grim comment, "I guess the poor fellow was too feeble to hold out any longer."

1282. A woman who had just reached her 29th birthday was talking to the pastor of her church about her desire to find a suitable mate.

"You mustn't be discouraged," the minister told her. "In this world there's a man for every woman and a woman for every man. You can't improve on an arrangement like that."

To which the young lady replied: "I don't want to improve on it—I just want to get in on it."

1283. The story is told of a young lady planning a June wedding. Recently when she complained to her mother that her fiance was very tight with money, she was told, "You should be pleased. A girl is fortunate to be married to an economical man."

"I suppose so," replied the bride-to-be, "but it's awful being engaged to one."

1284. A romantic pair were in the throes of silence as the car rolled smoothly along an enchanting woodland road, when the lady broke the spell.

"John, dear," she said softly, "can you drive with one hand?"

"Yes, my sweet," he cooed in ecstasy of anticipation.

"Then," said the lovely one, "you'd better wipe your nose."

1285. A Georgia belle whose reputation for beauty and charm reached through the entire South had recently become engaged.

"How does it seem?" a friend inquired of her.

"I feel," she answered, "like a man who has built up a large business and is about to go into the hands of a receiver."

1286. A shapely young girl had just married a man of wealth who was more than twice her age.

"I don't believe in these May and December marriages," declared a critical friend.

"Why not?" asked the bride.

"Well," said the friend, "December is going to find in May the youth, beauty and freshness of spring, but what is May going to find in December?"

The bride's logical reply was, "Santa Claus."

1287. A certain oil company has five floors in its main offices. To reach any one of the floors, a push-button elevator has been installed. One particular day, a handsome young company salesman just in from the field was making himself useful by asking the passengers their floors and pushing the buttons. At the second floor a pretty young stenographer got on but didn't indicate what floor she wanted. So he said, "Are you getting off at five?"

She flashed a big smile. "No, but I'll be through at 5:30."

1288. "If we get married, will you give up smoking?"

"Yes."

"And drinking too?"

"Yes."

"And will you stop going to your club in the evening?"

"Yes."

"And what else are you thinking of giving up, darling?"

"The idea of getting married."

1289. A very attractive girl was waiting at the curb for the light to change. Feeling a tap on her shoulder, the girl turned and looked up at a handsome Marine. He smiled and asked in a soft southern drawl, "Pardon me, but do you-all know Johnny Green?"

"No, I don't," the girl replied.

His smile grew bigger and, with a twinkle in his eye, he asked, "Would you care to meet him?"

1290. A wealthy bachelor of 60, who had fallen in love with a much younger woman, was discussing his romance with French satirist Voltaire:

"I want to marry her," he said, "but I'm afraid I ruined my chances by telling her my true age. I should have told her I was 50."

"No," said Voltaire, "you should have told her you were 70."

1291. "Well, and how are you getting on with your courtship of the banker's daughter?"

The young suitor beamed happily. "Not so bad," he replied. "I'm getting some encouragement now."

"Really," put in his friend. "Is she beginning to smile sweetly on you, or something?"

"Not exactly," replied the young man, "but last night she told me she had said 'No!' for the last time."

1292. A wealthy American girl was attending a weekend party at a country home in England.

"You American girls have not such healthy complexions as we English women have," said an English duchess to the girl. "I always wonder why our noblemen take a fancy to your white faces."

"It isn't our white faces that attract them," responded the American girl. "It's our green backs."

1293. "I have carefully studied the matter, and it seems to me that we are fitted for each other," said the Harvard man.

The Radcliff girl gazed up at him with her large, dark eyes.

"Explain yourself," she said.

"Simply this," he replied. "Looking at the matter as we should, in the scientific sense of the word. You are light and I am dark. You are short and I am tall. You

are sprightly, vivacious; I am somewhat sober and phlegmatic. In fact, we are opposites, and opposites should marry."

"Yes," she said, "opposites except in one respect, but that is enough. I cannot marry you.

"In what respect do you mean?" he asked almost fiercely.

She smiled.

"You are like me in this," she said; "I could never earn my own living."

Rumor

1294. An ad man went to Heaven but was stopped at the gate. "Sorry," he was told, "but we've got our quota from your profession. In order for you to get in, you'd have to convince one of the others to leave." "Fair enough," replied our man, "just give me 24 hours." At the end of the day, every one of the advertising angels had departed. When asked by the stunned gate-keeper how he did it, the ad man answered: "It was easy—I started a rumor that the devil was looking for a new agency. Incidentally (he continued) I'm not staying either. You can never tell about those rumors."

1295. The elder John D. Rockefeller resented being considered a soft touch.

One day, as he was leaving his office, a stranger stopped him and began relating a hard-luck story.

"Mr. Rockefeller," he said, "I walked 20 miles from the suburbs to see you. Everyone I met on the way told me you were the most generous man in New York."

Rockefeller thought this over for a moment.

"Are you going back by the same route?" he asked.

"Yes, sir."

"Will you do me a favor?"

"Of course, Mr. Rockefeller," said the beggar quickly.

"Will you please deny the rumor for me?"

Safety first

1296. "I didn't like the look of that pretty maid you engaged, John," said his wife. "I discharged her this afternoon."

"What! Without giving her a chance?" asked her husband in a shocked voice.

"No; without giving *you* a chance," was the grim reply.

1297. The man who was suing over an automobile accident was on the stand. The defendant's counsel took over.

"Did you, or did you not," he asked the plaintiff, "at the time of the accident when asked if you were hurt, reply that you weren't?"

"Well," said the plaintiff, "it was like this: I was going along the road with my old horse and wagon, and along comes this motorist and knocks us into the ditch. You never saw such a mess in all your life. There I was flat on my back with my legs in the air. There was my horse on his back, with his legs in the air. And there was my wagon, with its wheels in the air. The motorist stops his car, gets out and looks at us. He sees my horse has a broken leg. He goes back to his car, gets a pistol and shoots him. Then he comes up to me and says, 'Now how about you? Were you hurt?' "

Salary. See also *Wages*

1298. COMPANY PRESIDENT TO ADVERTISING MANAGER: "Your reduced advertising budget for the past year cut our expenses 50 per cent, our profits 75 per cent, and as of right now is cutting your salary 100 per cent."

1299. A clerk was handed a pay envelope which, by error, contained a blank check.

The astonished clerk looked at it and moaned.

"Just what I thought would happen," he said. "My deductions finally caught up with my salary."

1300. We love the tale of how one enterprising young executive got himself a raise. He made an appointment with his boss, drew himself up haughtily and said, "I had to see you to see if you'll give me a substantial raise."

"And why," said his employer, "do you think you're entitled to a raise?"

"Well," said the young man, "there are three companies after me."

"Indeed," replied his boss, "and who would they be?"

"The Gas and Light Company, Telephone Company and the Finance Company," he stated flatly. He got the raise.

Salesmanship

1301. DOOR-TO-DOOR SALESMAN to HOUSEWIFE: "I'd like to show you a little item your neighbors said you couldn't afford."

1302. A salesman always kept his hat on while working at his office desk. When kidded, he shot back, "That's to remind me I have no business being here."

1303. LITTLE WILLIE: "Mama, what becomes of an automobile when it gets too old to run any more?"

MOTHER: "Why, somebody sells it to your father for a used car—as good as new."

1304. An attractive young woman had an amazing record in the house-to-house sale of vacuum cleaners. Questioned as to her success, she confessed to an effective stratagem:

"I always make it a point to address my sales talk to the husband—in tones so low that the wife won't want to miss a single word!"

1305. "How's Brown getting along in his new lumber business?"

"Great, but he's terribly unhappy."

"How's that?"

"Well, he's so busy filling and shipping orders he doesn't have time to hold sales conferences."

1306. A secretary tells us that she always knew her boss was a quick-thinking go-getter. The other day the telephone rang in their real estate office, and a soft female voice asked, "Do you sell maternity clothes?"

"No, madam," the boss replied, "but could we interest you in a larger house?"

1307. The old commercial traveller was relating his experience to a young man in the same business.

"And don't forget," he said, "never try to sell an encyclopedia to a bride."

"Why not?"

The old man smiled cynically. "She always thinks her husband knows everything."

1308. A sales clerk went to the manager with a problem. "How," he asked, "can I stop women customers from complaining about our prices, and talking about the low prices in the good old days?"

"Very easily," replied the manager. "Act surprised and tell them you didn't think they were old enough to remember them."

1309. Two Hollywood producers were present at the huge funeral gathering at Louis B. Mayer's burial. One of them asked the other if he had ever seen so many people. The other nodded, "That's what I'm always telling you. If you give the people what they want, they'll go."

1310. A salesman was endeavoring to sell a fire-extinguisher to an elderly customer.

"Madam," he said, "this fire-extinguisher is guaranteed to give you service for fifty years."

"But," protested his elderly client, "I shan't be here all that time."

The salesman mistook her meaning and said: "Oh, but you can take it when you go."

1311. A very fussy office manager was giving instructions to a young salesman regarding his trip. He gave him explicit detailed orders charting out minute by minute the young man's every action.

"You'll leave on the train at 7:00 A.M. and you'll reach your destination about 9:00 A.M. Have a cup of coffee at the terminal and take a taxi over to see Blank and Blank. I want to hear from you if there are any slip-ups. Remember—wire me if there is any difficulty of any kind at all, understand!"

About 9:30 that morning he received this telegram: "No cream at the terminal—what shall I do?"

1312. A youngster walked into a bank the other day to open an account with $25. The bank's vice president gave him a benign smile and asked how he had accumulated so much money.

"Selling Christmas cards," said the lad.

"Well, you've done very well. Sold them to lots of people, obviously."

"Nope," answered the little boy proudly. "I sold all of them to one family—their dog bit me."

1313. A life insurance salesman was about to write up a $25,000 policy. The prospect said he recognized the need, meant to buy, but was inclined to wait awhile. "Later," he said. "Come back in July."

The insurance man's hand was on the doorknob, and as he was leaving he spun around and asked: "Whom shall I ask for if you're not here in July?"

1314. When Professor Albert Einstein's wife once visited the Mt. Wilson Observatory, California, she was shown the gigantic 100-inch telescope with all its elaborate equipment. After marvelling at it, she asked: "What is it used for?" They told her that one of the main purposes was to find out the shape of the universe.

"Oh," said Mrs. Einstein, "my husband does *that* on the back of an envelope."

1315. There's a story of a young and inexperienced salesman who was demonstrating a meat-slicer to a small German grocer in the Cincinnati area. The demonstration went well; the grocer showed obvious interest. Finally the salesman asked his prospect if he was satisfied with

the machine. The merchant nodded assent. "Then," asked the somewhat puzzled vendor, "why don't you buy?"

"Vell," replied the grocer, "vy don't you *ask* me?"

1316. An American and a British shoe salesman traveled on the same boat to West Africa, each representing different shoes companies. After landing, they looked around, and what struck them first was that all the natives were barefoot. The Britisher cabled his head office: "Nobody here wearing shoes. Coming home by next ship."

The American salesman cabled his chief: "Nobody here wearing shoes. Send one million consignment. Market wide open."

1317. A traveling salesman, making his first trip for a certain firm, was given a formidable list of customers in cities dotted all over his territory. "Get back in two weeks," he was told, and two weeks later he returned, exhausted but triumphant. "Did you see everybody?" the boss asked. "Sure did!" he replied. "And did you do much business?"—"Business! All I had time for was to show my card and run for my train!"

1318. Stopping for gas in an Iowa town, I found a line of cars at a filling station which displayed a sign: "Your tank full free if you guess how much it takes." After I had guessed—and lost—I asked the busy proprietor how his plan had worked out. "Fellow guessed right about two years ago," he said, "but it only cost me $1.30. And we don't get any 'Gimme a dollar's worth' customers any more. Everybody makes a guess and fills up."

1319. When Monaghan-born Thomas Lipton was a youngster, he spent much time in his father's grocery store and witnessed, with disapproval, the elder Lipton's lack of showmanship. One day he watched unhappily as his father attempted to sell a customer a half-dozen eggs. After the customer had gone, he said:

"Father, you should let mother sell the eggs."

"Why?" asked the father in surprise.

"Well," replied the future millionaire, mother's hands are a lot smaller than yours, and the eggs would look bigger."

1320. A busy gentleman said to his assistant, "You and I are swamped. We're trying to be both inside and outside men. Let's get help. We require a neat, conservative dresser, a proved diplomat; a writer of clear, concise reports; an experienced complaint handler; a full-time traveler; a delivery man; and an accounts collector."

"Shall I," asked the assistant, "place help-wanted ads for those seven men?"

"Seven men!" the boss roared. "That's one man . . . a salesman."

1321. A man in search of a job called on the personnel manager. "Do you need a good clerk?" he asked.

"Frankly, no."

"Can you use an accountant?"

"No."

"A machinist, perhaps?"

"No."

"A proof-reader?"

"No. Sorry, but we don't need any additions to our staff at present."

"Then," said the applicant, "you certainly need this." From his briefcase he produced a neat sign reading: "No Help Needed."

1322. A nomad returned to the desert after a trip to America. As he unpacked his treasures friends gathered around to ask what had most impressed him in the Western world.

"Was it the tall buildings?" asked a friend.

"No," said the nomad, as he unpacked his shoes.

"Was it the wealth of America?" asked another.

"No," said the nomad, unpacking his robes.

"Well," they asked in chorus, "what did impress you most?"

"The American salesman," declared the nomad, as he released an outboard motor from its wrappings and looked sadly over the bone-dry desert.

1323. One of those high pressure salesmen was doing a house-to-house canvass by telephone.

"Hello," answered the obviously small boy.

"Let me speak to your mother or father," the salesman requested brusquely.

"They're not home."

"Is there anyone else there I can talk to?"

"My sister."

"Well put her on."

There ensued a long silence; then the little boy's voice finally came back on the phone.

"I can't lift her out of the playpen."

1324. Waiting in a line to buy tickets for a theatre performance, a man noticed a boy of about twelve doing really good business in selling corsages. As the man joined his wife, the young salesman approached them and asked: "Rose for your girl friend, sir?"

"What makes you think she's my girl friend?" asked the man, as he dug into his pocket for the money.

"Oh, I didn't really," the boy confessed candidly. "I always say that to older people." He lowered his voice confidentially: "And when I see a couple of kids I know aren't married, I say, 'How about a rose for your wife?' It doesn't make sense—but it's good business!"

1325. He went into a men's shop to buy suspenders. The boss, who happened to wait on him, was trying hard to make a sale.

"Here is a brand with a lot of advantages, Monsieur. These are absolutely unbreakable!"

"You don't say!" replied the customer in a skeptical tone.

"You don't believe it? Here, I'll show you." And the boss called to an employee in the back, who came in at once. "Auguste, take one end of these suspenders while

I hold the other end and pull on them as hard as you can."

"OK, Monsieur, but are we trying to sell these or to buy them?"

1326. Then there was the salesman who strode into the busy executive's office. "How about buying some neckties?" asked the salesman.

"Don't need any. Beat it."

"But look at this beautiful silk."

"I told you to scram."

"Look how these ties are lined."

At this point the executive got up, grabbed the salesman and tossed him out of the office. The sample cases flew in all directions. The salesman picked up the ties, brushed himself off and walked back into the executive's office. He said, "Now that we've had our little fun, Mac, how about buying some ties?"

1327. An itinerant hawker was going about the villages of Brittany selling alarm clocks. But he found the peasants very reluctant to buy. One day he engaged Malina, the gypsy fortune-teller, to go round among them reading their fortunes in their palms; "A strange man will come to see you and bring you good luck. A man with an alarm clock!" Then, two days later, came the hawker himself.

From that time on business was so brisk that he couldn't get enough stock to satisfy his customers.

1328. Dante Gabriel Rossetti, the English painter and poet, used as much imagination in selling his pictures as in making them. One day, after he had completed a canvas, he asked a friend to accompany him to the zoo.

"Why the zoo?"

"I want to borrow an elephant to wash my windows," explained Rossetti.

"To wash your windows!" said the surprised friend; "that's ridiculous!"

"Of course it is," agreed Rossetti, "but it sells pictures. You see, when people observe such a spectacle in front

of my house, they gather in great numbers, and many come into my house and buy my pictures."

1329. When James H. Rand, Jr., chairman of today's gigantic Remington Rand, Inc., was a salesman of bank equipment, he called on Frank A.Munsey, then preparing to open Munsey banks in Baltimore and Washington. Young Rand was thoroughly quizzed on the merits and demerits of different types of equipment. Then Munsey said, "I'll give you a letter to my manager in Washington and you can go after him for the order."

Elated, Rand jumped on a train to Washington, told his story, and got a $25,000 order—forgetting to present the letter. Coming across it later in his pocket, he opened it and read, in effect: "Learn all you can from this man, but don't buy anything from him if you can help it."

1330. A newspaper columnist reports this as one of the finest "business letter" stories he ever heard. The letter, obviously written by an illiterate salesman, said:

"Dear Boss, I seen this outfit which they an't never bought a dime's worth of nothing from us and I sole them a couple hundred thousand dollars worth of guds. I am now going to Chawgo."

Two days later, a second letter arrived at the home office:

"I cum here and I sole them half a milyon," it said.

Both letters were posted on the bulletin board with a note appended by the sales manager.

"We been spendin too much time hear trying to spel, instead of tryin to sel. Let's watch those sails. I want everyboddy should reed these letters from Gooch who is on the rode doin a grate job for us, and you should go out and do like he done."

1331. The salesman was eloquent about the merits of the vacuum cleaner, but the housewife did not seem impressed. Nevertheless, she told him to show her what the thing could do.

He took off his coat, fitted up the cleaner, thrust his arm up the chimney, and brought down several handfuls of soot, which he scattered over the living room carpet. He then shovelled some ash from the fireplace and sprinkled the carpet with it, adding a shovelful of soil from the garden. Then he smiled and rubbed his hands.

"Now I'll show you what this vacuum cleaner can do. Where's an electric socket?"

"Socket?" echoed the woman. "Socket? We've nothing but gas."

Sarcasm

1332. "See this stickpin? Once it belonged to a millionaire."

"Woolworth, I suppose?"

1333. PROFESSOR: "Are you the barber who cut my hair the last time?"

BARBER: "No, I've only been here three months."

1334. The two women were discussing a third. Said one, "Well, you have to admit she's awfully kind to her inferiors."

After a pause, the other retorted, "But where does she find them?"

1335. A car screeched to a halt at an intersection, barely missing a white-haired old lady. Instead of giving the driver a tongue-lashing, she recovered herself quickly, smiled sweetly and pointed to a pair of baby shoes dangling from his rear-view mirror.

"Young man," she asked, "why don't you put your shoes back on?"

1336. Once, while he was drama critic for the *New York World*, Alexander Woollcott was buttonholed by a conceited actor whose acting Woollcott had failed to appreciate.

"Despite your opinion of my ability," the actor said, "I had the audience glued to their seats!"

"Really?" said Woollcott. "Clever of you to think of it!"

1337. A certain impresario came to see Fernandel, the French comedian. On taking his leave, he saw an open box of cigars on the table, and said: "What wonderful cigars! Would you allow me to take one or two to smoke on my way home?"

"Certainly," answered Fernandel. Then, noticing that the impresario helped himself to at least a dozen, he added: "I'm very grateful to you for coming to see me from such a long distance."

1338. Some years ago, a certain U.S. Circuit Judge, George A. Carpenter, after calling in the office of a brilliant lawyer friend, left a law book on the lawyer's desk—quite by accident. The rough and ready genius of the law ordered his clerk to take the volume back to the judge. "Ask him," he bellowed, "what he means by bringing me a law book." The clerk delivered the book and the message. "Ask him," responded Judge Carpenter, "how he knew it was a law book."

School. See also *Teacher-Pupil*

1339. Eight-year-old Suzie was crazy about school, while her six-year-old sister was somewhat less enthusiastic.

"Let's play school," suggested Suzie one day.

"All right," agreed the younger one grudgingly, "but let's play I'm absent."

1340. The teacher was telling about Sir Isaac Newton. "He was sitting on the ground looking at a tree," she said. "An apple fell on his head and led to his discovery of gravitation. Wasn't it wonderful?"

"Yeah," piped up a boy. "But if he'd been sitting in school like we're doing now it never would have happened."

Science

1341. "Pardon me," said a student coming upon Louis Pasteur bending over his microscope. "I thought you were praying."

Replied the scientist, "I was."

1342. A traveler was walking along the country road when he came across an old man. Addressing him, he asked how long it would take to get to the next village.

The old man didn't speak or even glance up at the traveler, so the traveler went on his way. He had only gone twenty yards further along, however, when the old man called him back. Going back to the old man, the traveler was told that it would take him twenty minutes.

"Why didn't you tell me before?" asked the traveler.

"Because," replied the old man, "I didn't know how fast you could walk."

Secrecy

1343. John Barrymore was once rehearsing a new play and got embroiled in a slight altercation with his leading lady. After a few unpleasantries had been tossed back and forth, the Great Profile made some rather uncomplimentary remarks on the actress' parentage. Infuriated, she swept off the stage and delivered her parting shot.

"Please remember," she snapped, "that I am a lady."

"Madam," retorted Barrymore suavely, "I will respect your secret."

1344. At a dinner party the guests were discussing whether women or men were the most trustworthy in business. "I don't believe that any woman can keep a secret," opined one man, scornfully.

"I would not say that," retorted the forbidding looking lady sitting opposite him. "I've kept my age a secret ever since I was 24."

"Nevertheless, I'll wager that some day you will let it out," replied the skeptic.

"I seriously doubt it, sir. When a woman has kept a secret for 20 years, she can keep it forever."

Secretary. See also *Stenographer*

1345. PERSONNEL DIRECTOR: "What previous experience have you had and what work have you done?"

APPLICANT: "I was a secretary. All I had to do was look like a girl, think like a man, act like a lady, and work like a dog."

1346. The secretary, returning from a coffee break, found her boss gazing dumbfounded into the file drawer labeled "T-Z."

"Miss Smith," exclaimed the puzzled man, "where on earth do you keep the Zimmerman correspondence? This file drawer is completely empty!"

"Zimmerman?" asked the secretary. "Let's see, now, is that a company or an individual?"

"What possible difference does that make?" demanded her employer.

"Well, I should say it makes a lot of difference," bristled the girl. "I don't know whether it would be filed under 'D' for 'Dear Sir' or 'G' for 'Gentlemen.' "

Selection

1347. "Why did you run down that dark cellar when lightning struck? If lightning's going to hit you, it's going to hit you no matter where you go," said the fatalist.

"If it's going to hit me, brother," said his friend, "let it look for me."

1348. The eager young designer presented his sketch for a new package to the art buyer of a large company.

"I'm sorry, sir," said the buyer. "You'll have to submit more than this. Every design is gone over by three different committees and then is passed on by four different department heads. Each rejects half to three-fourths of all ideas submitted. You'll just have to do more."

"By when?" gasped the designer.

"Oh, tomorrow afternoon."

Tomorrow afternoon he was there . . . sketches under arm, face unshaven, eyes sagging.

"Good," said the art buyer. "The committees are meeting now . . . but I think I'll be able to rush in to them. Sit down."

The designer sat . . . but hardly had he dozed off than the buyer was back.

"Congratulations! All the committees and all the department heads have agreed that this is the design . . . your first one."

"I'm glad," commented the young man. "It was the best by far. But tell me. I thought it would take weeks for all those men to reach a decision. How did they do it so fast?"

The art buyer smiled. "They flip coins."

Self-blame

1349. Albert Payson Terhune, the novelist, once admitted that he had a conscience that was not powerful enough to keep him out of mischief, but only powerful enough to keep him from enjoying it. The first manifestation of this quality Terhune experienced in his early childhood. He stood accused of eating an entire bowlful of lump sugar.

"Did you do it," his mother demanded.

"Yes," wailed the young culprit, "but I cried all the time I was eating it."

1350. "I once knew a man who was a real grouch. I could tell it just by looking at him," recalls Editor Clinton E. Bernard. "We exchanged greetings when we met, but neither of us was enthusiastic about it. Then one day I happened to see him do something kind, when he thought no one was looking. That changed my whole opinion of him, of course. When we met the next day,

he smiled cordially when I said 'Hello.' We got to talking and made a date to play golf. We played eighteen holes and got along fine. Later, he confessed to me, 'I never saw a man change so much overnight. Until recently I always thought you were a real grouch!' "

Self-confidence

1351. Sir Christopher Wren, famous English architect, while building a church in London in the early years of the 18th century, was told by a group of jealous architects that his type of architecture would not support the roof. He was ordered to put in two more supporting pillars. Fifty years later, while some painting was being done, it was found that these extra pillars did not even touch the roof. They were short by two feet. Sir Christopher had complete confidence in his architecture.

1352. The new music teacher at an Ontario boys' school had just organized a band, and the headmaster decided the band should make its debut before the bandmaster felt it was ready. So, on the big day, he tapped the music stand for attention and nervously hissed at his musicians, "If you don't feel sure of your part, just pretend to play."

Then he brought his baton down with a magnificent flourish—and the entire band gave forth with a crashing silence.

1353. A successful statesman fought a number of duels during the early days of his career. On one occasion he was due to fight a duel on a country estate, some distance from the capital.

He and his opponent arrived at the railroad station at the same time. The latter purchased a return ticket. The statesman bought only a one-way ticket.

"Have you so little confidence in yourself?" sneered his adversary.

"Not at all," replied the statesman. "I always use my opponent's return ticket after a duel."

1354. Rufus Isaacs, better known as Lord Reading, shortly before his death was playing golf one day with his son on a course where he was seen for the first time. After a few holes he approached a formidable bunker and his caddy, who had by then formed an unfavorable estimate of his golf prowess, handed him an iron together with the advice: "You had better not go for the carry, my Lord. Take this and play short."

Then in reply: "Not go for the carry?" said Lord Reading outraged. "I have gone for the carry all of my life! You give me a spoon!"

Self-importance

1355. A rich and discontented lady found herself most unhappy. Finally, in desperation, she went to a famous psychiatrist and asked for help.

"Madam," said the doctor, after some prolonged consultation, "I cannot help you. But you can help yourself. My advice to you is to visit Niagara Falls and take a good, long look at something bigger than yourself!"

Selfishness

1356. A Scotsman dying in an American hospital expressed a strong wish to hear the bagpipes once again before he passed away. Far and near they sought for a piper, and having found one at last they made him perform daily on the grass outside the patient's room. To the astonishment of everybody, the patient recovered. The only drawback was that the other patients all died.

1357. Mark Twain had a protegee who wrote him one day that she was not feeling well; so he wrote her back, advising her to buy a certain magnetic health belt. After she had worn the belt for a few days the girl wrote the humorist:

"I bought one of those belts, but it did not help me a bit."

By wire back came the answer:
"It helped me. I own stock in the company.
Samuel L. Clemens."

Self-love

1358. HUSBAND: "Darling, I brought home some things for the person I love best. I bet you can't guess what they are."

WIFE: "Razor blades, chewing tobacco, and a bottle of liquor."

Sex—Sexes

1359. EVA GABOR: "I'm glad I'm a woman. As grandpa used to say, 'Always be satisfied with your sex or you'll never be satisfied with anyone else's.'"

1360. During the latter years of his life, Albert Einstein was one of the most lionized of men. Once at a party, the hostess led him to the window and pointing to the heavens said, "I can spot Venus. It always shines like a beautiful woman."

"I'm sorry," said Einstein, "but the star you're pointing at is Jupiter."

"Oh, Dr. Einstein," exclaimed the hostess, "you're just wonderful. You can tell the sex of a star that far away!"

Shake-down

1361. A senator, facing a tough battle for re-election, was visited in his office by a beautiful and gushing young lady. Identifying herself as a constituent, she gurgled about how thrilled she was to visit the capital and, most of all, to meet her senate hero.

The senator modestly nodded his head. After a short visit he escorted his visitor to the door to the senate office building corridor.

"Senator, my grandmother visited Washington as a young girl," the visitor said as she prepared to depart. "She met Senator Daniel Webster. It was the great event of her life. I remember her telling how the great Webster kissed her. I wonder if you would kiss me?"

The senator gallantly complied. At the instant of embrace the door opened, a flashbulb exploded, and the girl disappeared as the door slammed. Several days later the girl and a companion returned to "sell" the compromising photograph. Aware that it could defeat him in the campaign, the senator reluctantly paid the demanded $ 500.

When the transaction was completed, the girl and her companion turned to go.

"Just a minute, please," the senator commanded. "Can you tell me, please, how much it cost Webster?"

Silence

1362. The lion ate a bull. He felt so good that he roared and roared. A hunter heard him, found him and killed him. There is a moral to this, and it is that when you are full of bull, keep your mouth shut.

1363. In a federal court, an elderly American Indian was charged with bootlegging.

"Your name?" asked the judge.

"Have you a lawyer?"

Again, silence.

"Do you understand English?"

The Indian kept staring blankly ahead. The judge shrugged and turned to the district attorney.

"This is a trivial case, anyhow," he said. "He doesn't seem to understand a word of English. Probably he doesn't realize he has done wrong. Dismiss the case."

Told he could go, the Indian nevertheless sat motionless while the next case was called. This time it was a white man who was charged with the same offense. The defense lawyer, noted for his oratory, delivered an impas-

sioned plea for mercy. Unmoved, the judge gave the defendant five years in the penitentiary.

As the crestfallen lawyer was leaving the courtroom, the elderly Indian fell in behind him. Suddenly the Indian leaned over and whispered in the lawyer's ear:

"White man talk too much."

Smoking

1364. FRANK: "May I have a cigarette?"

HANK: "I thought you said you had quit smoking."

FRANK: "I did but I'm still in the first phase. I've quit buying."

1365. An old fellow wanted to be a centenarian but was told by his doctor to give up drinking and smoking.

"Will I live to be 100?" asked the patient.

"No," said the doctor, "but it will seem like it."

1366. She was an economical, industrious and ambitious young wife and often tried to persuade her husband to give up smoking. One day she pointed out to him, in exact figures, how much he spent on tobacco in the course of a year.

"And you will be better off," she said, "mentally and physically, as well as financially, without your pipe."

"But all great men have smoked," he urged.

"Well," she said, "just promise me that you'll give up smoking till you're great. I'll be quite satisfied."

Space, Outer

1367. An old Indian was standing on the top of a hill with his son, looking over the beautiful valley below them. Said the old Indian, "Some day, my son, all this land will belong to the Indians again. Paleface all go to the moon."

1368. Johnny came home with a note from his teacher and after reading it his father concluded he was destined

to become a nuclear physicist because in the note the teacher indicated that Johnny was taking up space.

1369. A robot from outer space walked the streets of New York paying no attention to anything. Finally he wandered into a small bar where there was a pinball machine of the type that lights up at a score. "Hey, doll . . . ," he said to the stranger admiringly, "what's a classy dame like you doing in a place like this?"

1370. "What's the matter?" a man asked a glum friend at a bar.

"I'm trying to figure out a solution to the re-entry problem," said the other.

"Oh?" said the first. "I didn't know you were interested in rockets."

"I'm not. My wife threw me out of the house and I've got to find a way to get back in."

1371. A Texas oldster, doing some gardening in his back yard, was startled one day when a space ship swooped down out of the blue and landed in the middle of his lawn. A hatch opened and several little green men climbed out. Immediately they began to scan the landscape with field glasses.

Curious, the man dropped his rake and cautiously approached the little green men. "Excuse me," he said, "but what are you fellows looking for?"

One of the little green men glanced at him scornfully and answered, "Little green women, of course."

Spelling

1372. FIRST STENO: "How do you like your new boss?"

SECOND STENO: "Oh, he isn't so bad, only he's bigoted."

"What do you mean, bigoted?"

"He thinks words can be spelled only one way."

1373. An engineering student was stumped in an examination by a question concerning the bridging of a river that

ran over a rocky bed. In disgust, he finally wrote: "Damn the river and blast the bed."

He received full credit for the answer with one point deducted for bad spelling.

1374. A youngster wrote the admissions office of an old university requesting "catalogues, stickers, and penance." He received the catalogues and stickers all right, but in place of the third item the admissions director had enclosed a note: "For penance, may I suggest a few hours a day with a good dictionary?"

1375. Eleven-year-old Richard Earnhart, who won the National Spelling Bee some years ago, turned up with a new one:

"I enjoy reading the dictionary," said he, "because it changes the subject so often."

1376. People are laughing yet over an incident which occurred at a P.T.A. meeting. Five little first graders marched out onto the stage to welcome everyone, each child carrying a large cardboard letter to spell out the word "H-E-L-L-O."

All took their correct positions except the little lad who carried the letter "O." He had forgotten where to stand. He paused a few moments at the rear of the stage, much to the amusement of the audience. But he really brought down the house when he finally decided he belonged at the head of the group!

1377. The breathless seaman staggered into his barracks and dropped wearily into a chain. "I just had the toughest time of my life," he gasped. "First I had angina pectoris and arteriosclerosis. Then I got phthisis, psoraisis and appendicitis. As soon as I recovered, I had tonsilitis, aphasia and hypertrophic cirrhosis. Then I hit gastritis, neuritis, dermatitis and myopic astigmatism. I don't know how I ever pulled through."

"Golly, it must have been rough," agreed his pal.

"Yeah," breathed the boot, "ruggedest spelling test I ever saw."

Spinsterhood

1378. The girl who lays all her cards on the table is usually left playing solitaire.

1379. Two retired spinsters who decided to buy a poultry farm went to a dealer and explained their situation. They said they wanted to buy 200 hens and 200 roosters. The poultry dealer smiled a little and said, "Two hundred hens is O.K., but you really won't need 200 roosters."

"We realize that," one of them said, "but we know what it is to be lonely."

Sports

1380. FOOTBALL COACH: "And remember that football develops individuality, initiative, and leadership. Now get in there and do exactly as I tell you."

1381. One modern college is going to adopt a three-platoon system for football. One squad for offense, one for defense, and the other to attend classes.

1382. ONE GIRL EXPLAINING BOWLING TO ANOTHER: "Be careful not to knock down all the pins with the first ball, because if you do you get cheated out of a second throw."

1383. Any baseball team could use a man who plays every position superbly, never strikes out and never makes an error; but there's no way to make him lay down his hot dog and come out of the grandstand.

1384. "Our supporters' club are giving the soccer team a cigarette lighter each."

"Why a cigarette lighter?"

"Well, they lose all their matches."

1385. "Well, Doc, how's your football team coming?"

"Like counterfeit money."

"Waddye mean?"

"The halves are full of lead and the quarters can't pass!"

1386. A stranger to ice sports was taken to see a hockey game in which one of the goalkeepers made a very poor showing.

"Say," said the stranger, "does that guy between the ends of that cage collect any dough for this?"

"He sure does," replied the friend. "As a matter of fact he gets about a hundred a week for that."

"Gee," replied the uninformed one, "wouldn't it be cheaper to board up the place?"

1387. Philadelphia's hotels were filled for the opening game of the 1950 World Series when a gray-haired woman came looking for a room. She finally found one across the river in Camden. "Are you a baseball fan?" asked the clerk, looking at her curiously.

"Oh, yes, indeed," she answered eagerly. "My husband pitched the first ball in the 1924 World Series."

The clerk looked down at the register and read: "Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, Northampton, Mass."

1388. A sprinter was boasting of his achievement when a man sitting at a nearby table quietly interrupted him.

"I'll race you," said the stranger. "And you'll never pass me if you give me a three-foot start and let me choose the course."

The star looked at the portly gentleman and laughed confidently.

"Bet you fifty to one I will," he returned. "Where's the course?"

"Up a ladder," answered the challenger.

1389. An Englishman, a Scotchman, and an Irishman were indulging in reminiscences of sporting occasions. "The closest race I ever saw was a yacht race," said the Englishman, "in which one of the boats, which had been recently painted, won by the breadth of a coat of paint."

"The closest I ever saw," declared the Scotchman, "was one in which a horse, stung by a bee, won by the height of the swelling on his nose."

"The closest race I ever saw," said the Irishman, "is the Scotch."

1390. Years ago, when Boston College and Holy Cross College were engaged in their traditional Thanksgiving day football battle, a Boston College player complained to the referee: "Look! Someone bit off my thumb."

He held up his hand, and sure enough, the thumb was gone.

On the next play a Holy Cross player ran up to him and shouted: "Look! Someone bit off my ear." He lifted his head guard and there was his ear bitten clean off.

The referee decided this had gone far enough and called both teams around him.

"Now look here," he sternly admonished, "if this biting doesn't stop right here, I'll postpone this game until Friday."

Statistics

1391. "What are the chances of my recovering, doctor?"

"One hundred per cent. Medical records show that nine out of ten die of the disease you have. Yours is the tenth case I've treated. The others all died. So you see, you're bound to get well. Statistics are statistics."

1392. One hundred men went into the woods to cut logs. They took along two women to cook for them. Before the winter ended, two of the men married the women. This was normal. However, a statistician startled outsiders by reporting that 2% of the men married 100% of the women!

Status quo

1393. A fellow who owned a ranch out west was thrown from a horse, which resulted in a trip to the hospital. A few days later one friend asked another: "Did old Bill finally get all right?"

"No," replied the second, "he ain't all right, but he's back like he used to be."

1394. The minister asked all the congregation to rise who wanted to go to Heaven. All but one man rose. Then the minister asked those to stand who wanted to go to Hell. Nobody rose. The puzzled parson stared down at the non-cooperator and asked where he wanted to go.

"Nowhere," said this stalwart individualist. "I like it here."

Stenographer. See also *Secretary*

1395. BULLETIN BOARD IN AN ALBANY HOTEL: "Executives who have no secretaries of their own may take advantage of the girls in our stenographic pool."

1396. JONES: "What in the world is wrong?"

SMITH: "My wife just hired me a secretary."

JONES: "Blonde or brunette?"

SMITH: "Bald!"

1397. EAGER STENOGRAPHER (anxious to please): "Do you want these letters double spaced or triple spaced?"

DICTATOR: "Single spaced."

EAGER STENOGRAPHER: "And do you want the same spacing on the carbons, too?"

1398. One supervisor was telling another: "When I walk by the typists I feel like a piece of uranium approaching a battery of Geiger counters."

"What do you mean?"

"The closer I get the faster they click."

Stock market

1399. BROKER: "Were you a bull or a bear in the 1929 stock market crash?"

VICTIM: "I was a jackass."

1400. JONES: "I see by the papers that it is raining oil in China."

SMITH: "Well, I shouldn't wonder! That's probably due to the bottom falling out of one of those Texas oil wells I bought stock in."

1401. "Lend me a thousand dollars for a few days," pleaded the son with his rich father. "I have a hot tip on the stock market which will surely net me three hundred dollars."

"Here's $300, my boy, and consider your investment successful," countered the shrewd financier. "This will give you the $300 profit and it will definitely save me $700."

Story-telling

1402. At a White House dinner party, after the male guests had retired to the smoking room, one of them, bent on telling a choice piece of smut, cautiously inquired, "Are the ladies all gone?" President McKinley replied, "Yes, but there are gentlemen here."

1403. A raconteur in Haifa began a funny story at a dinner party with the standard introduction. "It seems there were two Jewish gentlemen . . ."

A sensitive guest objected. "Why," he demanded, "do so many stories begin 'Once there were two Jews?' "

"Okay," soothed the raconteur, "I certainly intended no offense. Let's say there were two Chinese, named Ling Pu and Fo Wang. So, Pu and Wang were hustling over to the synagogue for a bar-miztvah ceremony . . ."

Success

1404. PEDESTRIAN (to man with old violin under arm): "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?"

MAN (W.O.V.U.A.): "Practice, my friend, practice."

1405. When a famous artist was asked how it was that all his portraits turned out so beautifully, he replied:

"The secret is . . . I never show the bad ones."

1406. REPORTER: "To what do you attribute your success?"

BUSINESSMAN: "Well, I'm just trying to make an honest living, and there isn't much competition."

1407. A young college graduate asked a successful business leader for some good advice. "Tell me, sir, how can I make a good start in the great game of business?"

The businessman curtly replied: "Sell your wrist watch, young man, and buy an alarm clock."

1408. Around the turn of the century, a struggling young mechanic by the name of Henry Ford engaged an unknown race driver by the name of Barney Oldfield to pilot his entry in an important race. Barney won and established an unheard of speed record of 60 miles per hour.

Years later, the two met at a dinner. While reminiscing, Henry said, "Barney, we both have come a long way. In a way, you were responsible for my success and I was responsible for yours."

"Yes," Barney agreed, "and come to think of it, I have done much the better job."

1409. It seemed that when Calvin Coolidge was a boy an acquaintance tried to borrow five dollars from him but was turned down. Many years later, after Coolidge became President, the acquaintance had come up from Vermont and was taking a tour of the White House when he ran into Coolidge.

He again tried to borrow five dollars from him and once more was turned down.

His eyes wide with admiration, the acquaintance exclaimed: "Well, I got to say one thing for you, Cal . . . success ain't changed you one bit!"

1410. Two penniless lads arrived in America from Europe. The first one made a million dollars. He invented a machine into which you inserted a dime and a new wife came out.

The other one made ten million. In his machine you inserted the wife and a new dime came out.

1411. The most successful and the wealthiest member of the Class of 1949 to show up at East Burlap Business College for the tenth annual reunion was the one who flunked accounting, management and bookkeeping back in his school days. His astonished classmates gathered around to ask him how he became so prosperous.

"It's simple," he explained. "I make a kitchen gadget that costs me a dollar and sell it for four dollars. You can't miss with a business that brings you a steady three per cent profit."

Suggestion—Suggestions

1412. DISTRAUGHT MOTHER TO BOISTEROUS CHILDREN AT BIRTHDAY PARTY: "There will be a special prize for the one who goes home first."

1413. A certain man moved to the country, where he was visited regularly by his city friends. Each one had some suggestion to make for ways he could improve his farm. Finally he put up a "suggestion box" for the "city fellers."

This suggestion box was rather unique in that it was made without a bottom and was hung directly over a wastebasket.

1414. A temperance lecturer brought his discourse to a close thusly: "Who lives in the finest house in town? The tavernkeeper. Whose wife wears the mink coat? The tavernkeeper's wife. Now, friends, who pays for this finery? You who drink alcoholic beverages pay the bills!"

After the lecture a happy-appearing couple came to the speaker and shook his hand. "We want to thank you," said the man "for making up our minds for us."

"That's fine," said the speaker. "So you two have decided to become teetotalers."

"Heck, no," the man answered. "We've decided to buy a tavern!"

Suspicion

1415. She was one of those real suspicious women; but, although she carefully went over her husband's suit for traces of red or blonde hair, she couldn't find anything at all. Finally, she cried out to her husband, "Oho, so now you're going out with bald-headed women!"

1416. The policeman ordered the motorist to pull up to the curb and produce his driver's license.

"I don't understand this, officer," the motorist protested, "I haven't done anything wrong."

"No, you haven't," the officer replied. "But you were driving so carefully, I thought you might not have your driver's license."

1417. "City Hall," said the switchboard operator, answering a call. There was no sound on the other end of the line. "City Hall," the operator repeated. Still no reply.

Finally, after the third time, a rather nervous female voice said, "Is this really City Hall?"

"That's right, madam," said the operator. "With whom do you wish to speak?"

There was an embarrassed silence. Then the female voice said softly, "I guess nobody. I just found this number in my husband's pocket."

1418. Two wives, neighbors, were having their morning cup of coffee, and one was obviously disturbed. "That husband of mine!" she said. "I'm so mad at him I don't know what to do!"

"Why?" asked her friend.

"Because last night I dreamed that a buxom blonde was flirting with him and he was loving it!"

"But, Joanna," her friend protested, "that was only a dream."

"I know," the unhappy wife replied, "but if he acts like that in *my* dreams, think what he's like in *his!*"

1419. "I will ask you," said the lawyer who was trying to throw doubt on the testimony of a witness, "if you have ever been indicted for any offense against the law?"

"I never have, sir."

"Have you ever been arrested on a charge of any kind?"

"Never."

"Well, have you ever been suspected of committing a crime?"

"I'd rather not answer that question."

"Ha! You would rather not. I thought so. I insist upon your answering it. Have you ever been suspected of a crime?"

"Yes, sir; often. Every time I come home from a trip abroad, the customs inspectors at New York City suspect me of being a smuggler."

System

1420. The famous Baron Rothschild was an easy target for those in search of "succor." One day two vagabonds came to his door. The more aggressive one entered to make the pitch while his comrade-in-tatters waited hopefully outside. The mendicant stated his request and was ushered to the second floor, where the liveried attendant, in turn, advised him that such inquiries were best handled on the floor above. On each successive floor a servant directed him to the next landing. When he finally reached the top floor of the establishment, the uniformed guard at the door of Rothschild's private office told the beggar the Baron was too busy to entertain him that day. An argument ensued, and in the twinkling of an eye the beggar went hurtling down all the stairs into the street. When his partner asked him what he had received, he answered as he nursed his bruises, "Nothing. But do they have a system!"

Table-turning

1421. The little girl rushed into the kitchen and flung herself into her mother's arms sobbing.

"Why, darling," comforted the mother, "what on earth is the matter?"

"M-my dolly," cried the child. "Michael broke my dolly."

"Oh, what a shame! How did he do it?"

"He was being n-naughty," lisped the child, "and I hit him over the head with it."

1422. Not so many years ago, George Bernard Shaw, poking fun at all things American, came out with some unusually caustic comments. A number of newspapers howled in protest, but one editor held his fire until Mr. Shaw paid his much publicized visit to Miami. This editor's paper published a lengthy report of the arrival of Mrs. George Bernard Shaw. Mrs. Shaw went to this dinner. Mrs. Shaw attended that function. Mrs. Shaw said this, and Mrs. Shaw did that. Then at the bottom of the long article was this casual afterthought:

"With Mrs. Shaw was her husband, George Bernard Shaw, a writer."

Tact

1423. A society matron urged a much younger man to guess her age. "I'm no good at guessing ages," he replied gallantly, "but if I saw you on the street, I would whistle first and estimate later."

1424. A clergyman was spending the afternoon at a house in the English village where he preached. After tea he was sitting in the garden with his hostess. Out rushed her little boy, holding a rat above his head. "Don't be afraid, mother," he cried, "it's dead. We beat him and bashed him and thumped him until"—and then catching sight of the clergyman, he added, in a lowered voice—"until God called him home."

1425. Franz Liszt, no less a diplomat than a musician, had a stock reply for young ladies, especially pretty ones, who demanded unmerited praise of their talents.

"Maestro," the young things would inquire, "do you not think I have a good voice?"

"Ah, my dear young lady," Liszt would reply, his voice ringing with enthusiasm, "good is *not* the word!"

1426. An office boy noticed two women with the boss.

OFFICE BOY: "Who were those two girls?"

BOSS: "Well, one was my wife and the other was Marilyn Monroe."

OFFICE BOY: "Which one was Marilyn Monroe?"

The boss took a dollar out of his pocket and gave it to the boy.

OFFICE BOY: "What's this for?"

BOSS: "Nothing. I just want you to remember, when you get to be president, that I once loaned you money."

1427. At a musical evening, a woman was rendering a song, and one of the guests leaned towards the man next to him and muttered:

"What an awful voice! I wonder who she is?"

"She is my wife," replied the other stiffly.

"Oh, I'm awfully sorry," apologized the first. "Of course, it isn't really her voice that's so bad, but that terrible stuff she has to sing. Wonder who wrote that ghastly song?"

"I did," was the even stiffer reply.

1428. President Theodore Roosevelt once told a biographer that he learned a great lesson in the art of diplomacy from an Indian chief. While touring the West and visiting the pals of his ranching and Rough Rider days, Teddy met an Indian who had six wives. Roosevelt suggested that he choose one and discard the other five. After thoughtful consideration, the chief agreed—on one condition.

"You choose the one for me to keep," he replied, "and then you tell the other five."

Tardiness

1429. "I'm not really late, boss," said the tardy secretary, hanging up her hat. "I just took my coffee break before coming in."

1430. In an office plagued by absenteeism, the boss set up strict rules to curb the evil. He particularly stressed that being late was still preferable to being absent.

Next morning a secretary telephoned to report she would be late arriving at the office. Before granting permission the boss asked cautiously, "About how late?"

"Twenty-four hours," replied the girl as she hung up.

1431. Two Cajans got into a hot argument and decided to settle things the way they do in the old country—with guns.

On the appointed morning, Francois was on hand with his pistol, second, and his physician. After about an hour, a messenger arrived with a telegram from Boudreaux.

"Dear Francois," it read, "If I am late, don't wait for me. Go ahead and shoot."

Taxes

1432. A sign on a New York bank building would have startled our grandfathers, but goes unnoticed in this age of war taxes. Exhorting the citizens to save, it ends: "Remember, part of all you earn belongs to you."

1433. An American and a Dutchman were talking. "What does your flag look like?" asked the American.

"It has three stripes," replied the Dutchman, "red, white and blue. We say they have a connection with our taxes—we get red when we talk about them, white when we get our tax bills, and we pay them till we're blue in the face."

"That's just how it is here," replied the American, "only we see stars, too."

1434. A Hoboken, New Jersey, resident bought himself a goat. His next door neighbor, the local tax assessor, eventually grew tired of the goat being around under his picture window all the time and levied at $4.00 tax on the animal. The owner of the goat complained bitterly,

and finally demanded to know under what law the tax assessor made his levy.

"The levy is strictly in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey," said the tax man.

"I demand proof of that!" snapped the goat man.

"Here it is right in the law book—'All property abutting and abounding on the public street shall be taxed at the rate of two dollars per front foot.'"

Teacher—Teaching

1435. A "fed-up" school teacher resigned with this comment:

"In public schools today the teacher is afraid of the Principal; the Principals are afraid of the Superintendent; the Superintendents are afraid of the School Board; the Boards are afraid of the parents; the parents are afraid of the children; and the children are afraid of nobody."

1436. Driving through the mountains of Tennessee, we stopped to ask an elderly man the way to Coffee Hill School.

"Well, miss," said the native, "you go down here until you come to Hangin' Rock and then—you know where that is dontcha?"

"No," replied my friend, "I don't believe I do."

"Well, that's where you turn off and go on two miles until you git to Tumblin' Creek. You know where that is, dontcha?"

"No, I don't."

"I'm sorry, miss," said the native shaking his head regretfully. "I don't think you know enough for me to tell you anything."

Teacher—Pupil

1437. TEACHER TO COLLEAGUE: "Not only is he the worst behaved child in school, he has a perfect attendance record!"

1438. TEACHER: "I hope I didn't see you looking at Mary's paper, Tommy.

TOMMY: "I hope you didn't too, M'am."

1439. SCIENCE TEACHER: "What happens when a body is immersed in water?"

STUDENT: "Telephone rings."

1440. TEACHER: "How old would a person be who was born in 1920?"

SMART KID: "Man or woman?"

1441. TEACHER TO WEATHERMAN'S SON: "How much are two and two?"

WEATHERMAN'S SON: "Four . . . probably!"

1442. TEACHER: "Since pro means opposite con, can you give me an illustration of each?"

STUDENT: "Progress and Congress."

1443. TEACHER: "Yes, Johnny, what is it?"

JOHNNY: "I don't want to scare you, but Papa said if I didn't get better grades someone is due for a licking."

1444. TEACHER: "Now, if I subtract twenty-five from twenty-seven, what's the difference?"

MODERN CHILD: "That's just what I say; who cares?"

1445. A class of six-year-olds was being instructed in the use and value of coins.

The teacher placed a penny on her hand, showed it to a small boy and asked: "What is it?"

After a close scrutiny the child replied, "Heads."

1446. The first-grader who sent in his letter to the *Washington Post's* "favorite teacher" essay contest readily admitted liking "Miss Davis."

In fact he scrawled: "I wish she was smart enough to teach second grade too next year."

1447. The teacher was trying to make the pupils think, so asked some tricky questions. "Johnny," said the teacher, "give me an example of 'nothing.'"

Johnny did not hesitate. "Nothing," he said, "is a balloon with its skin off."

1448. A pupil roused his teacher's wrath by laughing louder the more he punished him. "What are you laughing at, you rascal?" said the teacher. "Because you're whipping the wrong boy," replied the lad.

1449. "Mother," said little Tobey, "today our teacher asked me whether or not I had any brothers or sisters, and I told her I was the only child."

"And what did she say?" asked his mother.

"She said, 'Thank goodness.' "

1450. In a physiology class the teacher said, "Joey, can you give a familiar example of the human body as it adapts itself to changed conditions?"

"Yes, ma'am," answered Joey. "My aunt gained 50 pounds last year, and her skin never cracked."

1451. Teacher was giving a lecture on charity. "Willie," he said, "if I saw a boy beating a donkey, and stopped him from doing so, what virtue would I be showing?"

WILLIE (promptly): "Brotherly love."

1452. The teacher asked her pupils to list, in their opinion, the nine greatest Americans. After a while she stopped at one desk and asked: "Have you finished your list yet, Bobby?"

"Not yet," he replied, "I can't decide on the shortstop."

1453. The fifth grade teacher had taken her pupils for a trip through the Museum of Natural History. "Well, son," asked little Jimmy's father, "where did your teacher take you this afternoon?"

"Huh," replied Jimmy disdainfully, "she took us to a dead circus."

1454. The teacher was trying to impress upon her class the advantages of peace and disarmament. "How many of you boys object to war?" she asked. Up went several hands.

"Jimmy, will you tell the class why you object to war?"

"Because wars make history," replied Jimmy soberly.

1455. "Ma," said a discouraged little pupil, "I ain't going to school any more."

"Why, dear?" tenderly inquired her mother.

"'Cause it ain't no use. I can never learn to spell. The teacher keeps changing the words on me all the time."

1456. Upon returning to her sixth grade class one day, a teacher found the children sitting quietly at their desks. Since this was unusual, she asked them for an explanation.

Rather hesitantly, a girl said, "Well, you once told us that if you ever left the room and came back to find everyone sitting perfectly still, you'd drop dead."

1457. We just heard about a little boy who said to his teacher, "I ain't got no pencil."

She corrected him at once: "It's 'I don't have a pencil.' 'You don't have a pencil.' 'We don't have any pencils.' 'They don't have any pencils.' Is that clear?"

"No," said the bewildered child. "What happened to all them pencils?"

1458. TEACHER: "If you had four chickens on Friday and one chicken on Saturday, how many chickens would you have?"

LITTLE WILLIE: "I would have seven chickens."

TEACHER: "You're crazy—four and one are five."

LITTLE WILLIE: "But I have two already."

1459. An eight-year-old lad asked his father to teach him the art of self-defense. After a week of strenuous lessons in boxing, the father seemed satisfied with his son's progress. "Now you won't be afraid of any children in your school," said the proud parent.

"I'm not afraid of the children," replied the child. "It's my teacher I was worried about."

1460. TEACHER: "How old were you on your last birthday?"

JUNIOR: "Seven, ma'am."

TEACHER: "How old will you be on your next birthday?"

JUNIOR: "Nine, ma'am."

TEACHER: "Nonsense. If you were seven on your last birthday, how can you be nine on your next birthday?"

JUNIOR: "I'm eight today."

1461. It was the period reserved for English composition, and the teacher had suggested as a theme, baseball. Each pupil was to write an account of a ball game. All fell earnestly to work, with the exception of a single lad who chewed reluctantly at his pen. Finally his countenance was illuminated by a Great Inspiration. Turning to the blank sheet before him, he wrote:

"Rain—no game."

1462. After pulling and tugging for several minutes, the Grade 1 teacher finally succeeded in getting the six-year-old's galoshes on. She remarked, "They're awfully hard to get on."

"Yes," replied the child, "that's because they aren't mine."

Patiently the teacher pulled them off again and was about to set them down when the child said in a resigned voice, "They're my brothers, but I have to wear them."

1463. A former student, shown a list of current examination questions by his old economics professor, exclaimed: "But these are exactly the same questions you used to ask me." "Yes," agreed the professor, "we ask the same questions every year." "But don't you know that students hand along the questions from one year to another?" "Of course," smiled the professor; "but in economics we change the answers."

1464. A Moscow school inspector asked a teacher whether she had any exceptionally bright children in her class.

"Yes," she replied, "little Ivan is a year ahead of all the others." So he was brought out to be questioned by the inspector.

"Who are the three biggest traitors in the history of the Soviet Union?"

"Stalin."

"Yes."

"Malenkov."

"Yes."

"And Khrushchev."

"You are quite right," said the inspector, turning to the teacher. "He *is* a year ahead."

Technique

1465. A newspaper offered prizes for suggestions on how best to hold your wife. A life termer in the penitentiary for strangling his wife wrote: "Around the neck."

1466. An American beef packer, vacationing in Spain, attended a bull fight, and was asked by his host: "Wasn't it interesting?"

"Yes," admitted the visitor, "but isn't it an awful bother? Back home we do all that mechanically."

1467. When Lloyd George was asked how he managed to stay in power after all the other war-time leaders—Wilson, Orlando, and Clemenceau—had been ousted and forgotten, he replied that if his staying on top might be attributed to any one thing, it was probably to the fact that he had learned it was necessary to bait the hook to suit the fish.

1468. The two fathers were discussing their families and children and some of the incidents that arise in daily living.

"My three boys stick together," said one. "When one of them gets in trouble, neither of the other two will ever squeal on him."

His friend asked: "How do you find out the guilty one so that you can punish him?"

"That's easy. All I do is send all three of them to bed without supper, and the next morning I thrash the one with the black eye."

1469. Benjamin F. Fairless, speaking at the National Foreign Trade Convention:

A predecessor of mine as President of U.S. Steel was a man of unusually persuasive powers. His name was Charlie Schwab. One incident that illustrates this gift of his concerns a new steel mill. Company officials had collected all but one parcel of a large tract of land they needed. The farmer who owned this parcel stubbornly refused to sell. Vice-presidents, lawyers, the local mayor, everybody took a crack at trying to win him over. They offered him more money, company stock, double the acreage somewhere else. The farmer would not budge.

Then Charlie Schwab went to call on the farmer at his home. They sat down together on the parlor sofa and Charlie put his big, genial arm around the farmer's shoulder. Turning on the full voltage of his electric personality, he started to reason with him. Schwab had talked only a short time when suddenly the farmer jumped up.

"Mr. Schwab," he said, "I'll sell you the property, but thank God I'm not a woman."

Television

1470. Did you hear of the fellow who spent five hours trying to get the English Channel on television?

1471. If you agree that our children are watching too much television, you'll like this one about the young lad who rushed home from kindergarten and insisted his mother buy him a set of pistols, complete with holsters and gun belt.

"Why, whatever for, dear?" mother asked. "You're not going to tell me that you need them for school?"

"Yes, I do," he asserted. "The teacher said that tomorrow she's going to teach us to draw."

Temptation

1472. A little boy had been severely punished by his mother for a misdeed. "You should turn a deaf ear to temptation when it calls," she scolded.

In tears, the little fellow protested, "But, Mummy, I don't have a deaf ear!"

1473. The great Saadi was asked one time: "If you were alone in a room with a beautiful woman, and the door was locked and no one could tell what you were doing, could you resist temptation?"

"Perhaps," said Saadi, "but no one will believe me because it is easier to avoid temptation than slander."

1474. "Why did you have to buy such an expensive coat?" her husband demanded.

"Well," confessed the wife, "I guess Satan tempted me."

"Then why didn't you say, 'Get thee behind me, Satan?' "

"I did—but he looked over my shoulder and said, 'Fits you real good in back, too.' "

Thought—Thoughts

1475. "Men can live without air for two minutes," said one of the teachers at a P.T.A. meeting the other night, "and without water for two weeks, and without food for two months, and without a new thought for two generations."

1476. The army chaplain was preaching earnestly on the subject. "You can improve yourself if you improve your thoughts." He concluded by saying, "What you are is determined by your thoughts."

Whereupon one soldier nudged his neighbor and whispered, "In that case I'm either a pin-up girl or a Cadillac."

1477. RECRUIT TO OFFICER: "If I told you you were an ass, what would you do, sir?"

OFFICER: "I should put you under arrest."

RECRUIT: "And if I only thought it?"

OFFICER: "Then I could do nothing; thoughts are invisible."

RECRUIT: "Well, I am thinking it."

Time-saving

1478. STENOGRAPHER: "I've been saving a lot of time lately."

FRIEND: "How's that?"

STENOGRAPHER: "I found out that the dictionary is in alphabetical order."

1479. One morning Andrew Carnegie interviewed two boys for a position. He placed a package in front of each, and told them to start unwrapping. One boy carefully untied the string and placed it in a drawer. The other reached for a pair of scissors, snipped the twine and tossed it into the wastebasket. Carnegie then asked the two boys to wait outside.

"Shall I hire the boy who saved the string?" asked his secretary.

"No, I want the other boy," said the steel magnate. "The days of saving string are over. We're time-savers now."

Tip—Tips—Tipping

1480. "I see, waiter, that tips are forbidden here."

"Yes, sir. So were apples in the Garden of Eden."

1481. If you can't get away for a rest, there's an alternative. You can get the same feeling by staying home and tipping every third person you see.

1482. "What's courage, dad?"

"Refusing to tip in a restaurant."

"What's discretion?"

"Not going back to the same restaurant."

1483. Late one night, a taxi pulled up and a Scotsman got out and began fumbling in his pockets. Finally he handed the driver a coin.

"I've known folks to give a bit over," grumbled the driver.

"Ay," replied the Scotsman, "that's the reason I asked ye tae stop under this lamp."

1484. Leaving the plush night club one evening, a miserly gentleman stalked right past the doorman without tipping him. Nevertheless, the doorman helped the man into his car with a flourish, and said pleasantly, "In case you happen to lose your wallet on the way home, sir, just remember that you didn't pull it out here."

1485. Women are supposed to be very conservative when it comes to passing out tips. But a certain waiter in a cocktail lounge is reported to be doing all right. Before he sets down the drinks for a table of middle-aged biddies, he always asks with a straight face, "Are you really sure all you girls are over twenty-one?"

1486. A man in a hurry came into a bar, ordered a double scotch, tossed down a $5 bill, and dashed out. The bartender picked up the bill and was tucking it into his pocket when he felt the eyes of the owner on him.

"Did you ever see a deadbeat like that?" the bartender said to the owner. "He tears in here, orders a double scotch, leaves a $5 tip, and beats it without paying."

1487. The streets were crowded with shoppers when a sudden storm came up. Some scurried for shelter, but one middle-aged woman decided to cross the street. The gutter was awash with swirling water. As she stood there trying to summon courage enough to cross, she felt herself lifted slightly and propelled forward by a strong masculine arm.

Safely on the other side and in a doorway, she looked up at her rescuer, then fumbled in her purse. "I'm so grateful to you," she said, fishing out a quarter and offering it to him.

The young man drew himself up and in a dignified tone replied: "Madam, my father is a high-ranking official at the United Nations."

"Well, I can't help that," she snapped. "This is all the change I have."

Tit for tat

1488. One Paris taxi driver was in the other's way. Red-faced, the beret-topped driver leaned out of his Renault and yelled: "Hey, little one, did you learn to drive by telephone?"

The other leaned out and said: "Yes—and it was you on the other end of the line!"

1489. Lloyd George was making a public speech when some heckler shouted, "Listen to him! And his father used to drive a wagon led by a donkey!" Lloyd George calmly replied: "Yes, that's right. And today my father and the wagon are gone. But I see we still have the donkey with us."

1490. A story making the rounds concerns a mother who had brought home one of those books on the art of understanding a teenager. She was completely absorbed in the book when her young daughter came into the room. The kid took a look at the book and retreated without comment. In a few moments she returned—this time with a book of her own—and with the title conspicuously visible, stretched out to read. The book was, *You and Your Aging Parents*.

1491. "Robert," said the earnest social worker to the village reprobate, "the last time I met you, you made me very happy because you were sober. Today you have made me unhappy because you are intoxicated."

"Yes," replied Robert with a beaming smile. "Today's my turn to be happy."

1492. The wife of Arthur Rodzinski, the conductor, was chatting with the wife of a musician who played in his orchestra. Mrs. Rodzinski said, "My husband wakes up each morning grumpy and feeling awful. Then he goes

to the orchestra rehearsal and comes back home feeling wonderful."

"That's strange," the musician's wife answered. "With my husband it's exactly the opposite."

1493. Many years ago, the chief engineer of one of the leading railroads was introduced to a clergyman as the greatest bridge builder in the country.

"Can you build a bridge to eternity?" the cleric asked with a bit of holier-than-thou smile.

But quick as a flash came the engineer's reply: "Yes, if you can furnish the abutments."

1494. Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, of New York, was once seated at a public dinner next to a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

"One of my ancestors," said the Son a bit boastfully, "signed the Declaration of Independence."

"Ah, indeed," said the learned rabbi, "and one of mine signed the Ten Commandments."

1495. Oliver Wendell Holmes, strolling on the beach near his summer home one day, stopped to chat with a little girl playing in the sand. The child soon slipped her hand in his and walked along the beach with him. After a time she said, "I'll have to go home now."

"Goodby, my dear," said Dr. Holmes, "and when your mother asks you where you've been, tell her you've been walking with Oliver Wendell Holmes."

"And when your folks ask you where you have been," said the child, "tell them you were walking with Mary Susanna Brown."

1496. The celebrated lecturer, about to give a talk on "fools" was introduced by the chairman, who considered himself something of a humorist.

"Ladies and gentlemen," he said. "We are now to have a lecture on fools by one"—he paused, and there was loud laughter before he resumed—"of the wisest men in the country."

The lecturer acknowledged the introduction in this manner:

"Ladies and gentlemen," he said, "I am not half so big a fool as the chairman"—he, too, paused, and again there was loud laughter—"would have you suppose."

1497. Henry Ward Beecher, the renowned clergyman, opened his mail one morning, and found that one envelope contained a single sheet of paper with the word scrawled across it: "Fool." The next Sunday, in the course of his sermon, he referred to the letter in these words: "I have known many an instance of a man writing letters and forgetting to sign his name. But this is the only instance I have known of a man signing his name and forgetting to write his letter."

1498. George IV, often called "the first gentleman of Europe" was notorious, however, for his profligacy and his rude manners. One day at a seaside resort he met another loose-liver, whom he didn't like, and said to him harshly, "I hear you are the greatest blackguard in the place."

His subject bowed and replied, "I trust Your Majesty has not come here to take away my reputation."

1499. A New Yorker was showing a visitor from Los Angeles the sights of New York; the visitor was brutally frank about admitting that he saw nothing to compare with the sights of Los Angeles. He sneered at everything he saw—the harbor, the skyline, even the traffic. As their taxi passed the corner of 34th Street and Fifth Avenue, he asked the New Yorker: "What is that tall building?" The New Yorker glanced up at the Empire State and said indifferently, "I really don't know. It wasn't there this morning."

1500. Shortly before her marriage, Miss Alice Roosevelt was showing the sights at Mt. Vernon to a party of English friends. At a certain spot by the river she paused, saying, "Just here Washington threw a dollar across the Potomac." Her British friends were inclined to make

light of the achievement, one of them remarking, "Well, a dollar went further in those days, you know."

"But Washington did more than that," responded Miss Roosevelt. "Once he chucked a sovereign across the Atlantic."

1501. A Cincinnati lawyer tells this on himself. He has a wife who talks back and she sometimes gets the worst of it. A few evenings ago he went home in a complaining humor. "That steak isn't cooked to suit me," he growled almost as soon as he had seated himself at the table.

"Well, cook it yourself," she replied. "You didn't marry a cook."

About the middle of the night, she poked hubby in the ribs and yelled into his left ear, "Get up, John, I hear burglars in the house." Between snores, John managed to say, "Get up yourself, you didn't marry a policeman."

1502. An eminent London judge who wrote a wretched hand once sent a note to a friend among the lawyers seated at the barristers' table.

Not being able to make anything out of it the friend scribbled something absolutely undecipherable upon half a sheet of note paper and passed it up to the justice. The great man looked somewhat annoyed as he looked at it, and when court adjourned he asked his friend:

"What do you mean by this? I invited you to come and dine with me tonight."

"Yes," said the lawyer, "and I replied that I should be delighted to do so."

1503. Once a wealthy widow married a poor man. The honeymoon was scarcely over before she began reminding her husband that it was her money which was paying the bills. Even when friends called and admired the newlyweds' home, the wife would remark:

"Of course, if it weren't for my money, we should not be able to afford a home like this."

One day the husband bought a television set. When it arrived his wife examined it and said:

"I don't have to remind you, Henry, that if it weren't for my money-it wouldn't be here."

"My dear," replied the husband quietly, "I think it is time to tell you that if it weren't for your money I wouldn't be here either."

1504. In a speech to the Belgian people in Brussels, former President Herbert Hoover, talking about the grim days of Belgium's occupation during World War I, said: "Even in these circumstances, there were moments when the innate Belgian gaiety and wit would break through their suffering like a star-shell in the night over no man's land. The world will recall that thundering enemy general who paid a visit to Burgomaster Max of Brussels. As preparation for a lecture to the burgomaster, he unbuckled his belt of ponderous weapons and laid them on the conference table. The burgomaster solemnly uncapped his fountain pen and laid it beside the revolvers."

1505. Thomas Moore, the poet, came of humble stock, a fact which made him proud. At the height of his fame he was invited to join a fashionable London Club. At a meeting he was approached by the single lord who had objected to the admittance.

"I understand, Mr. Moore," said the lord, "that your father was a shop-keeper. Is that true?"

"Indeed he was," replied Moore, "and a very honest one too."

"How interesting," remarked the nobleman, "and may I ask why you didn't follow in his footsteps?"

"Because, sir," said Moore, "my talents were limited." Then he added: "I have heard that *your* father was a gentleman. May I ask why you have not followed in *his* footsteps?"

1506. Whistler, the painter, had a French poodle of which he was extravagantly fond. The poodle was seized with

an infection of the throat one day, and Whistler had the audacity to send for the great throat specialist, Mackenzie.

When Mackenzie saw that he had been called to treat a dog, he felt incensed, but said nothing. He prescribed, pocketed a big fee and drove away.

The next day he sent posthaste for Whistler. And Whistler, thinking he was summoned on some matter connected with his beloved dog, dropped his work and rushed to the home of Mackenzie.

On his arrival, the great specialist said, gravely, "How do you do, Mr. Whistler? I wanted to see you about having my front door painted."

1507. A baker living in a village not far from Quebec bought the butter he used from a neighboring farmer. One day he became suspicious that the butter was not of the right weight, so for several days he weighed the butter and found that the rolls were gradually diminishing in weight, and he had the farmer arrested for fraudulent dealing.

At the trial the judge said to the farmer: "I presume you have scales?" "Yes, of course, your honor." And weights, too, I presume?" "No, sir." "Then how do you manage to weigh your butter?"

"That's easily explained, your honor," said the farmer. "When the baker commenced buying this butter of me I thought I would get my bread of him and it is the pound loaves of bread I've been using as a weight for the butter I sell. If the weight of the butter is wrong, he is to blame himself."

Traffic, Automobile

1508. Some people find it hard to park a car; others put it over with a bang.

1509. Women not only drive as well as men, they can do it on either side of the road.

1510. Perhaps the reason women are said to drive more slowly than men is that they usually do anything to keep under thirty.

1511. JUDGE: "Why did you park your car there?"

DRIVER: "The sign said, 'Fine for Parking.'"

1512. Will Rogers once suggested a cure for the traffic problem. He wanted the highways open only to those cars that were paid for.

1513. The reason there were fewer accidents in the old horse-and-buggy days was because the driver didn't depend wholly on his own intelligence.

1514. These days there are too many people in too many cars in too much of a hurry going in too many directions to nowhere for nothing.

1515. Another reason trains don't have as many accidents as automobiles is that the engineer doesn't drive with his arm around the fireman.

1516. Reckless automobile driving arouses the suspicion that much of the horse sense of the good old days was possessed by the horse.

1517. YOUNG SON: "Dad, Mom just backed the car out of the garage and ran over my bicycle."

DAD: "Serves you right for leaving it on the front lawn."

1518. Little Nellie was asked the difference between the Quick and the Dead.

"The Quick are those who get out of the way in time; the Dead are those who don't."

1519. TRAFFIC COP (disgusted with the burden of paper work): "I'm just a glorified stenographer in uniform! If I lost my pencil it would be more serious than if I lost my gun."

1520. SAID THE JUDGE: "I wish to commend you two drunk drivers for running into each other instead of some innocent person. If this sort of thing can be encouraged, I think we may have hit upon the solution of a serious problem."

1521. "You're charged with driving 90 miles an hour," said the judge.

"I just can't help myself, your honor," said the guy. "I do everything fast."

"All right," said the judge, "let's see how fast you can do 60 days."

1522. PROBLEM: If your new car has a 500-mile warranty on defective parts, and you drive an average of 17 miles a day, when will your warranty run out?

ANSWER: The day before the motor develops a funny knock.

1523. Two children were standing on a corner waiting for the lights to change.

Cars were driving through red lights and stop signs, double parking, and weaving in and out of traffic lanes. Said one boy to the other:

"What do you want to be—if you grow up?"

1524. DOCTOR: "Alcoholic intoxication, in the biological sense, without any gross manifestation of drunkenness, can produce sufficient interference with psycho-motor activity and neuro-muscular co-ordination to render such an affected individual a potential menace."

Which is the doctor's way of saying that, if you have been drinking, even though you are not drunk, you have no business driving a car!

1525. Governor A. B. (Happy) Chandler once told a Governors' Conference that, during his first term as Kentucky's chief executive his wife was arrested in so many states for speeding that he had a governor placed on the accelerator of her car. Shortly afterward, she was driving with their two children in the car and sought to pass another vehicle. The governor took over, and she couldn't pass.

"That damned governor will kill us yet," she exclaimed.

"But, mother," said one of the children, "the damned Governor isn't even here."

1526. The woman came up to the red light and stopped. Then the light turned green. She couldn't get started. To

the accompaniment of a deafening roar of horns from the cars back of her, she tried everything she knew while the light turned yellow, red, and green, and back again.

Finally the cop came up to her, and as sympathetically as he could he said:

"What's the matter, lady? Ain't we got the colors to suit you?"

1527. A man placed 331 pills in a bottle. Three hundred of these pills contained common bicarbonate of soda, thirty were composed of a harmless, common drug, but one contained potassium cyanide. All the pills were mixed together, and when they were emptied on the table, all looked alike.

"How many are willing to take a chance and swallow one of these pills?" the man asked his adience. But no one in the audience moved to accept the challenge.

Finally, after a long wait, the man said, "I guess right now that you men put very little value on your time, but it might be interesting for you to know that in one out of 331 instances when a man attempts to beat a traffic light, a fatality occurs."

Translation

1528. A Dutch woman, an expert knitter, always looked for unusual sweater patterns to try. One evening at dinner in a Chinese restaurant, she became intrigued with the Chinese characters on the menu. She took the menu home and set about her knitting. The result was a black sweater with white Chinese characters running from shoulder to waist. With her blonde hair, she looked quite attractive in it and was delighted with the results.

Then one day she met a friend who read Chinese. He roared with laughter, then translated what she had so skillfully worked in wool: "This dish is cheap but most delicious."

Travel

1529. "Travel always has been a pleasure," says a tourist brochure. From now on it will probably be out of this world!

1530. Isn't it odd how neighbors whom we seldom see all winter write to wish we were with them when they get 500 miles away?

1531. The drunk staggered from deck to stateroom, sat down, and peered through the porthole the entire afternoon. Finally he got up, turned his back, and mumbled, "What a lousy television show."

1532. TOURIST IN PARIS (pointing to menu): "Waiter, bring me some of this."

WAITER: "Sir, the orchestra is now playing it."

1533. "Any big men born around here?" asked the tourist in a condescending tone.

"Nope," replied the native. "Best we can do is babies. Different in the city I suppose."

1534. "The weather here in Florida is so wonderful," said the old lady, "how do you tell summer from winter?"

Replied the hotel clerk, "In winter we get Cadillacs, Lincolns and stuffed shirts. In summer we get Chevrolets, Fords and stuffed shorts."

1535. A man who had just returned from a holiday cruise was asked: "Did you see any poverty at the ports you visited?"

"Not only did I see it," he replied, "I brought some of it back with me."

1536. A tourist's wife, describing their long tour abroad, was asked if she went to Venice.

"I can't remember, but I'll ask Blanche."

"Yes, mother, don't you remember I bought those yellow stockings there?"

1537. Two American ladies in Athens were chatting in the lobby of the hotel at which they were stopping. Said

one to the other: "I've been here more than a week now, and I haven't been to the Acropolis yet." To which the other promptly replied: "Strange, neither have I. It must be the water."

1538. Looking over the rim of a volcanic crater, an American tourist in Europe said to another: "Wow, it sure is deep and hot. Reminds you of hell, doesn't it?"

One of the native guides, hearing the remark, shrugged his shoulders. "These Americans," he said quietly, "they've been everywhere."

1539. An American couple on a tour of rural France had their baggage sent to a small inn ahead of them. When they arrived, they were cordially greeted by the manager who assured them with the few English words he knew that he had made every arrangement for their comfort. He had even registered them, taking their names from their luggage: "Mr. and Mrs. Genuine Cowhide."

1540. On a guided tour of the Civil War battlefields, the guide gave instance after instance in which a handful of Grays routed regiments of Blues.

"Didn't the Yankees ever win?" probed a New Yorker.

Replied the guide: "Not so long as I've been directing this tour."

1541. "Going far?" asked the talkative traveler on the train.

The natural born squelcher seated next to him replied: "Only to Springfield. And I am a commercial artist. My age is 46. I am married. I have a son 20; he is studying at Harvard. My father died last January. He was on the Stock Exchange. Mother is still living. I have a niece with red hair. Our cook's name is Bridget. Is there anything else?"

1542. SMITH: "My wife's been very ill and the doctor told me I should take her to the seashore, but I didn't have the money to do that."

BLAKE: "What are you going to do about it?"

SMITH: "Oh, I've found a way to bring the sea breezes to her."

BLAKE: "How?"

SMITH: "I fan her with a herring."

1543. Two men were flying east in a passenger plane, making the first air trip of their lives. The plane touched down at St. Louis, and a little red truck sped out to its side, to refuel it. The plane landed again at Cleveland, and again a little red truck dashed up to it. The third stop was Albany, and the same thing happened.

The first of the two men looked at his watch and turned to his companion. "This plane," he said, "makes wonderful time."

"Yep," said the other, "and that little red truck ain't doin' bad either."

1544. There are people who have traveled round the world and brought back no vivid memories except of quarrels over small sums with taxi drivers, clerks and waiters. Contrast these with an acquaintance of Ralph Waldo Emerson's who, when he set out on a journey, made a budget of his probable expenses and added a certain percentage "to be robbed of." Having established this reserve in advance, he proceeded in equanimity and peace.

1545. A sight-seeing automobile was trundling through the streets of Boston. The man with the megaphone was about to put the instrument to his lips when a young woman in a very short skirt twitched his coat tail and said impatiently:

"Say, guide, let up on that heavy stuff. We've all heard a lot about the splendid Oliver Wendell Holmes of Boston. Can't you show us inside a few of them for a change."

1546. A party of tourists visited an out-of-the-way village in which was a very ancient church. The verger invited the party inside the building, where from an old chest he showed them some ancient plate, and recounted its history.

Then he looked at them solemnly and inquired whether they would like to see some modern plate.

"Certainly!" was the reply. "We are out to see all we can."

Whereupon the verger brought them the collection plate!

1547. A line of automobiles carrying the members of the "Personally Conducted Seeing Europe in Thirty Days" tour had come to a stop before the Excelsior Hotel in Rome, and this conversation was overheard in one of the cars: "Mother, is this Rome?"

The answer came in a tired, "toured-to-death" tone of voice:

"What day of the week is it my dear?"

"This is Tuesday. Why?"

"Well, if it's Tuesday, it *must* be Rome."

1548. An Englishman, who knew no language but his own, had lost his way in Paris. In his perplexity it had occurred to him to write the name of his hotel in large letters on his card and hand it to the first benign looking individual he met.

The Frenchman thus accosted turned, and, with the charming manner of his race, accompanied the perturbed Englishman for about 20 minutes in solemn silence, until they reached the hotel designated.

In a transport of joy at finding himself once more on known ground the tourist poured out voluble thanks in the only language at his command.

At this this the Frenchman looked at him in amazement and remarked in perfect English:

"Why didn't you tell me. I thought you were deaf and dumb!"

Truth

1549. "Isn't it a problem," said one mother, "the way our innocent little children thoughtlessly tell lies?"

"Not half the problem," replied the other, embarrassment fresh in her memory, "as when they tell the truth at the wrong time."

1550. The captain wrote in the ship's log: "First mate was drunk today."

After sobering up, the mate went to the captain and pleaded with him to strike out the record.

"It was the first time in my life I've been drunk," he pleaded, "and I promise never to do it again."

"In this log we write only the truth," stormed the skipper.

Next day it was the mate's turn to keep the log, and in it he wrote: "Captain was sober today."

Turnabout

1551. "Would you like the maid to call you in the morning, sir?"

"No, thanks—I always wake at seven."

"Then perhaps you wouldn't mind calling the maid?"

1552. BANKER: "Didn't I tell you that if your employer would endorse your note I'll lend you $1,000?"

APPLICANT: "My employer told me to tell you that if you will endorse my note he'll lend me the $1,000."

Understanding

1553. Seems that Adlai Stevenson was being taxied to the airport one day and he introduced himself and started passing the time of day with the cabbie.

"People say I talk over the heads of the average man," Mr. Stevenson said. "What do you think?"

The cab driver pondered the question. Then, "Well, Governor, I understand you, but I'm not so sure about the average man."

1554. The dizzy blonde snuggled up to her escort. "How about giving me a diamond bracelet?" she breathed into his ear.

"My dear," replied her companion, "extend whether *r*-cumstances coerce me to preclude you from such a [illegible]*ble* of extravagance."

"I don't get it," said the girl.

"That's just what I said," was the reply.

Vacation

1555. Vacations are easy to plan: The boss tells you when and the wife tells you where.

1556. Summer is the time of the year people load their car with children, relatives, the cat and the dog, the radio and television set—and take it all with them. This is called getting away from it all.

1557. When a man just returned from his vacation complained of the rainy weather he'd had, a friend interrupted, "It couldn't have been so bad—you're sunburned!"

"Sunburn, nothing," he replied. "That's rust!"

1558. Mother was in the habit of taking her annual holiday abroad, while father took his in the form of shooting expeditions nearer home.

This worked well until a few days before her return mother sent the customary telegram home to father to stock the larder.

She wrote: "Home Saturday. Be there." and added her name. Father received the following telegram: "Home Saturday. Beware."

1559. A quick-tempered executive returned to his office after a vacation in Palm Beach and was approached by one of his employees.

"If you don't mind, sir," said the fellow meekly, "is it all right for me to start my vacation next week?"

"Are you mad?" boomed the executive. "I was away for four weeks, wasn't I? That was your vacation."

1560. "Where's Schemer? I haven't seen him for a long time."

"On vacation."

"Again? He just had a vacation a few weeks ago."

"That was unused time from last year's vacation."

"I see. What's he using now? Time he has coming from this year's vacation?"

"No. He's saving that for the end of the year. To work in with the holidays."

"But what's he using for this vacation?"

"He borrowed a week from next year's vacation. What's wrong? You look confused."

Value

1561. "Sam," said Joe to his lawyer friend, "what's your fee for getting me a divorce?"

"My fee," replied Sam, "is $125—but I don't like divorce cases. Why do you want a divorce?"

"I want to marry my sister-in-law," stated Joe.

"A thing like that would be misunderstood and cause a lot of talk," advised Sam. "However, you go home and think it over—talk to your friends and neighbors, and if you still want a divorce, I'll take the case."

Three days later Joe was back. "I've changed my mind, Sam—I don't want a divorce," he declared.

"Fine!" exclaimed his lawyer friend. "What decided you?"

"Well," said Joe, "I went home and talked it over with my next door neighbor—and he says that he's been out with both my wife and sister-in-law and there ain't $125 difference."

1562. "I witnessed an amusing incident at one of the local theatres the other evening," remarked a theatre-goer. "A woman wearing a large picture hat was seated directly in front of an elderly man, who was straining his neck in an endeavor to see what was happening on the stage, and, of course, it was possible for him to see but one-third of the performance.

"The second act had begun, and I could plainly see that his anger was increasing. At last, when he could stand it no longer, he lightly tapped the woman on the shoulder and in as gentle a tone as he could muster said:

"'Madam, pardon me, but I paid two dollars for my seat, and your hat . . .'"

"'My hat cost twenty-five dollars, sir-r-r,' came the haughty reply."

"The conversation was at an end."

Veracity. See *Truth*

Verbosity

1563. Justice Felix Frankfurter once wrote a dissenting opinion in which he used the phrase, "one word more remains to be said," and then went on to write twenty more pages—plus a sixty-two page appendix.

1564. PROFESSOR: "I say, your tubular air container has lost most of its rotundity."

MOTORIST: "Says which?"

PROFESSOR: "The cylindrical apparatus which supports your vehicle is no longer inflated."

MOTORIST: "I beg your pardon . . ."

PROFESSOR: "No, the elastic fabric surrounding the circular frame whose successive revolutions bear you onward in space has failed to retain its pristine roundness."

LITTLE BOY (coming to the rescue): "Hey mister, you got a flat tire."

1565. A minister of the gospel found himself without a position, and hearing of a congregation who lacked a preacher, he made application for the position. When asked for reference, he gave the name of one man at his old church who had been kind to him, hoping to keep the Board to which he was applying from finding out too much.

Back came the letter of recommendation from the man he had given as a reference, and when the letter was read

aloud to the Board of Deacons, it seemed wonderful. It said:

"The young man is a fine student of the Word, an accomplished speaker, a good organizer, and a good mixer. He is faithful and zealous in his church work."

If the letter had stopped there, the young preacher would have certainly had a job quick. But it continued:

"Only one possible criticism could be made of the young man, which is that he is loud-mouthed and quarrelsome when he's drunk."

Vocabulary

1566. Pity the minister who bought a used car and then didn't have the vocabulary to run it.

1567. A foreign gentleman got into a taxi and looked appealingly at the driver. "I haven't much good English," he began brokenly, "and I've lost the word."

"You mean you've forgotten the name of the street where you want to go?" asked the driver.

The man nodded, tapping his head vigorously as though to shake the missing word loose. Finally he smiled, and said, "Take me to the wife of king street."

The taxi driver lost no time in driving him to Queen Street.

Wages. See also *Salary*

1568. EMPLOYER: "Why do you ask me for a raise?"

EMPLOYEE: "Sir, I wouldn't ask for a raise, but somehow my kids found out that other families eat three times a day."

1569. WOMAN TO PROSPECTIVE COOK: "Now that we've settled hours, days off, vacations, and other things, how about wages?"

MODERN COOK: "It all depends, ma'am. Do you peel or unfreeze?"

1570. MacSweeney, the carpenter, had just been granted another raise in pay but when his brother from the country asked him how he was getting along, he sighed and sadly shook his head. "But you've got a good job, haven't you?" said the brother.

"One of the best," replied MacSweeney.

"What's the trouble, then?"

"The wages—that's the trouble."

"But, I thought you just had a big raise in pay."

"By golly, that's just what's bothering me. My wages are so dadblamed high now I can't ever afford to take a day off."

Wearing apparel

1571. If a man can't see why a girl wears a strapless gown, she shouldn't.

1572. Many a woman who says she purchased a new gown for a ridiculous price means she got it for an absurd figure.

1573. TEACHER: "Why was Solomon the wisest man in the world?"

PUPIL: "He had so many wives to advise him."

1574. MARY: "That's a nice dress you have on."

JANE: "Thank you. I usually wear it to teas."

MARY: "Whom?"

1575. "She often complains of how little she has to wear."

"Yeah?"

"Well, last night at the dance she was wearing it."

1576. CUSTOMER: "Why do you have an apple for a trademark? You're a tailor."

TAILOR: "Well, if it hadn't been for the apple, where would the clothing business be?"

1577. LADY: "I want to buy an inexpensive pair of shoes."

CLERK: "To go with what?"

LADY: "A cheap husband."

1578. The salesgirl explained it this way: "If you remove the bodice, you will have a playsuit. If you remove the skirt, you will have a sunsuit. If you remove anything else, you'll have a lawsuit."

1579. The extravagant young wife had been on a shopping spree. The next day a delivery boy arrived with five new hats. "My gosh!" exclaimed her indignant spouse. "What do you want with five new hats?"

She looked him squarely in the eye.

"Five new dresses," was her calm reply.

1580. The difference between the old-fashioned Mother Hubbard dress and the modern gown is that the Mother Hubbard dress fitted nothing and covered everything and the modern gown fits everything and covers nothing.

1581. The beach inspector at a popular seaside vacation resort spoke to the beautiful but dumb blonde about her scanty attire.

"Well, it's this way," she explained. "My boy friend told me he preferred one-piece suits and I had bought a two-piece suit, so I threw one piece away."

Woman—Women

1582. Say "How cool you look," and it pleases a woman. Tell her she doesn't look so hot and it makes her mad. Women are so unreasonable.

1583. A great psychologist was once asked by a lady if he did not think that woman was the best judge of woman.

He replied: "Not only the best judge, my dear lady, but the best executioner."

1584. A garage man answered the distress call of a woman motorist whose car had stalled. He responded to the call and made an examination. "Your car is out of gas," he stated.

"Will it hurt the car," she asked, "if I drive it home with the gas tank empty?"

1585. An explorer was describing some of his adventures before an audience of women.

"Suddenly I came upon a tribe of wild women," he said, "who, strangely enough, had no tongues."

"Heavens! No tongues?" exclaimed one of his listeners. "How could they talk?"

"They couldn't," said the adventurer. "That's what made them wild."

Youth

1586. Mrs. Baker: "How can I keep Junior out of the cookie jar?"

Mrs. Tailor: "Lock the jar and hide the key under a cake of soap."

1587. A father made a list of all the evil pranks his youthful sons had pulled, added a few of his own boyhood achievements, and finished it off with all the troubles he could foresee. Then he got his obstreperous offspring to agree not to commit any of the listed offenses. Upon returning from a long hard day at the mill he found his house in shambles. Young American ingenuity had thought up something that wasn't on the list.

DEFINITIONS*

A

Accident: an event frequently descended from a long line of advice not listened to.

Accountant: a party hired by a successful person to explain to the government how he did it.

Acrimony: what a man gives his divorced wife.

Adder: a mathematically-minded serpent.

Adolescence: 1. when a boy goes from a Mickey Mouse watch to a Marilyn Monroe calendar. 2. the age at which children stop asking questions because they know all the answers. 3. that time between pigtails and cocktails.

Adult education: what goes on in a household containing teen-age children.

Adult western: 1. one in which the star is smarter than the horse. 2. one in which the lady who runs the gambling joint invariably shows the goodness and location of her heart.

Advice: the approval sought for doing something one has decided to do.

After-dinner mint: what you need when the waiter brings the check.

After-dinner speaker: one who knows how to dilute a two-minute idea into a two-hour speech.

Aging: A process in which man loses his hair, his illusions, and what little patience he may have had.

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* 2,141 additional definitions can be found in one of the author's previous books, *Braude's Handbook of Humor for All Occasions* (Englewood Cliffs, N.J., Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1958).

Agriculturist: 1. a farmer whose son has been to the state college. 2. a farmer with a station wagon.

Alarm clock: a small device used to wake up people who have no children.

Alcatraz: a pen with a lifetime guarantee.

Alcoholic: a drinker who drinks between drinks.

Alibi: proof that you were at the office working, where you weren't, instead of at the club playing poker, where you were.

Alimony: 1. severance pay. 2. a matter of wife and debt. 3. paying for a subscription to a magazine that isn't being published any more. 4. matrimonial insurance for women paid by men for having poor judgment. 5. when two people make a mistake and one continues to pay for it. 6. a return on a bad investment. 7. a divorce on the "bye now—pay later plan." 8. just another form of "Go now, pay later." 9. the billing without the cooing. 10. a situation analagous to paying off the installments on the car after the wreck.

Allowance: what you pay your children to live with you.

Amateur boxer: apprentice mortician.

Amateur gardener: one who learns by trowel and error.

Ambiguity: telling the truth when you don't mean to.

Ambition: get-ahead ache.

Ambitious wife: the power behind the drone.

America: 1. a land where, in the middle of winter women buy spring clothes for summer romances with fall guys. 2. the country that developed hybrid seed and the soil bank. 3. the land where a citizen will cross the ocean to fight for democracy and yet won't cross the street to vote in a national election.

Americans: people who wish we would go back to letting Atlas support the world.

American Way, The: going for broke on the installment way.

Amusement: the happiness of those who can't think.

Anger: barbed ire.

Angler: a man who spends rainy days sitting around on the muddy banks of rivers doing nothing because his wife won't let him do it at home.

Antique: 1. something nobody liked well enough to wear out. 2. a piece of furniture that is fully paid for. 3. something that makes you wonder whether your ancestors had children. 4. a fugitive from the junkyard with a price on its head.

Appeal: the way in which one court is asked to show its contempt for another court.

Appropriation: a tax disguised with a fancy name.

Army haircut: hair raid.

Art: a collaboration between God and the artists, and the less the artist does the better.

Artist's model: a girl who barely makes a living.

Assassination: the extreme form of censorship.

Atheism: a disease of the mind caused by eating underdone philosophy.

Atheist: 1. one who prays when he can think of no other way out of his trouble. 2. a disbeliever who prefers to raise his children in a Christian community.

Atmosphere: what the quaint little eating place uses instead of fresh air.

Autobiography: an unrivaled vehicle for telling the truth about other people.

Autobus: a kiss en route.

Automobile: a machine with four wheels, a motor, and not quite enough seats, which enables people to get about with great rapidity and ease to places they never bothered going to before and where they'd just as soon not be now, because now that they're there, there's no place to park.

Aviator's goggles: fly specs.

Awkward age: too old for income tax exemption and too young to claim old age pension.

B

Baby: an angel whose wings decrease as his legs increase.

Baby sitter: a modern mother's idea of a labor-saving device.

Bachelor: 1. a man who knows enough not to go around asking questions. 2. a man who has faults he doesn't know about. 3. a man who takes marriage seriously. 4. a man who has a leaning towards women . . . but does not fall! 5. a man who never Mrs. anyone. 6. one who never quite gets over the idea that he is a thing of beauty and a boy forever. 7. a free male. 8. a man who leans toward women, but not far enough to altar his stance. 9. a guy who wouldn't change his quarters for a better half. 10. one who thinks one can live as cheap as two. 11. a rolling stone that gathers no boss. 12. a chap who doesn't have to worry about how much of his take-home pay reaches there. 13. a guy who has to leave a tip after each meal. 14. a man who is crazy to marry—but realizes it in time. 15. a chap who isn't fit to be tied. 16. a guy who'd rather have full ash trays than empty pockets. 17. a fellow who comes to work every morning from a different direction. 18. a man who believes only the brave deserve the fair but is still glad he's a coward. 19. a man who has taken advantage of the fact that marriage is not compulsory.

Bachelor party: where a prospective bridegroom has the kind of wonderful time he could have every night if he weren't getting married.

Bagel: a hole entirely surrounded by concrete.

Balanced budget: when the days of the month and your money run out at the same time.

Bald-headed man: one who came out on top and still lost.

Boloney: flattery laid on so thick it cannot be true; blarney: flattery laid on so thin we like it.

Bank: 1. a place where you keep the government's money until the tax man asks for it. 2. an institution that urges you to save part of what you earn, and lends you money so that you can spend more than you earn.
Bankruptcy: a closed corporation.
Barbecue: an incinerator with a press agent.
Bargain: anything you have enough money to buy (Depression definition).
Bartender: a guy in a white suit who brings you into contact with the spirit world.
Baseball: a game played by eighteen men who don't need exercise, watched by thousands who do.
Bathing suit: something that either shows you off or shows you up.
Bathroom scale: something you stand on and it makes you mad.
Beatnik: one who figures he's real gone when he's only half there.
Beer baron: a malty millionaire.
Bigamist: man who leads two wives.
Big party: mixed crowd; mixed drinks; mixed up.
Big spender: a man who's tip-heavy.
Bikini bathing suit: something that begins nowhere and ends all at once.
Bilious: the nauseated feeling you get when you open the mail the first of the month.
Biography: a region bounded on the north by history, on the south by fiction, on the east by obituary, and on the west by tedium.
Bird-watcher: a gardener whose neighbors have chickens.
Blarney: see Baloney.
Bohemians: people who sit on the floor and drink black coffee when all the while there are chairs and cream in the room.
Bore: 1. a fellow who never mentions you once in his conversation. 2. a person who sees to it that your company leaves at a reasonable hour. 3. a person who can be read like a book, but not shut up so easily. 4.

a guy who wraps up a two-minute idea in a two-hour vocabulary. 5. a fellow who has nothing to say and insists upon saying it. 6. a person who arrives dragging his tale behind him.

Boss' son: the young man who is willing to start at the bottom for a few days.

Boxer, Amateur. See Amateur boxer.

Boy: a piece of skin stretched over an appetite.

Breach of promise: 1. where a man proposes and a girl discloses. 2. a form of legal action in which a man discovers his real value.

Brevity: next best thing to silence.

Bride: 1. a former bridesmaid who has promoted from catcher to pitcher. 2. a girl who discovered that where there's smoke there's toast.

Bridegroom: 1. a man who spends a lot of money on a new suit that no one notices. 2. a wolf whose whistle got stuck. 3. a guy who began by handing out a line and ended up walking it.

Bridge player: one who learns to take it on the shin.

Brief case: eleven bottles.

Brilliant conversation: what you said in response to somebody else's conversation.

Broadcloth: lingerie.

Broadway pal: someone you can always depend on to depend on you.

Broker: what you are more than last year.

Budget: 1. a plan that enables you to pay as you go—if you don't go anywhere. 2. planned worrying. 3. a system in which the outcome of the income depends on the outgo for the upkeep. 4. a family quarrel. 5. a system of reminding yourself that you can't afford the kind of life you've grown accustomed to.

Buffet: French for making a pig of yourself.

Buffet dinner: a situation where the hostess doesn't have enough chairs for everybody.

Burlesque: where the shock is in the corn.

Burlesque censor: a guy who always has a grind to ax.

Burlesque theatre: a place where they have many acts to grind.

Businessman: 1. a man who spends time making money and then spends money killing time. 2. one who is judged by the company he keeps solvent. 3. one who, when given enough rope, will be tied up at the office. 4. one whose friends don't believe he makes as much as he says he does, and the government doesn't believe he makes as little.

Business recession: the time when people get their clothes out of mothballs instead of department stores.

Business sense: when you take a chance and it turns out all right.

Bustle: a deceitful seatful.

Busybody: 1. that which is usually occupied with an idle mind. 2. a sunburned nudist with the hives falling into an ant hill.

C

Calculated risk: when you give every hope and assurance that a plan will be successful, but if it doesn't work, then of course you knew all the time that it wouldn't and said so.

California: a state that's washed by the Pacific on one side and cleaned by Las Vegas on the other.

Candle maker: one who works only on wick ends.

Cannibal: a guy who goes into a restaurant and orders a waiter.

Cannibal waiter: one who serves his fellow men.

Canon law: rules exercised by force of arms.

Capital: the money the other fellow has; Labor: getting it away from him.

Capital punishment: 1. spending the summer in Washington, D.C. 2. when the government taxes you to get capital, in order to go into business in competition with you, and then taxes the profits on your business in order to pay its losses.

Cardiac: a poker or bridge fiend.

Careful driver: 1. one who has just seen the man ahead get a traffic summons. 2. one who looks in both directions when he runs a red light. 3. a motorist on the way to court to pay a speeding ticket.

Cash: the poor man's credit card.

Casual acquaintance: someone you know well enough to talk about but not to.

Catwalk: the path from the door of one gossip to another.

Cement: the stuff that won't set until a dog or small boy runs through the middle of it.

Censor: one who sticks his nose into other people's business.

Census taker: a man who goes from house to house increasing the population.

Centaur: a man with a horse where his pants ought to be.

Central America: where presidents expire before their terms do.

Chafing dish: a girl who rubs one the wrong way.

Charm school: place where you pay someone to tell you what is wrong with you, which your "friends" would do free of charge.

Cheap skate: one who doesn't cut much ice.

Check stubs: a convenient record of how you managed to overdraw your account.

Childhood: 1. that wonderful time when all you need do to lose weight is bathe. 2. the grime of life.

Child psychology: what parents use in letting their boys and girls have their own way.

Children: unreasonable facsimiles.

Chiropodist: a man who is always eager to start off on the wrong foot.

Chiropractor: a slipped-disc jockey.

Chiseler: a guy who follows you into a revolving door and comes out first.

Chorus girl: one who reaches success by attireless effort.

Christmas: a give and take proposition.

Church collection: a function in which many people take only a passing interest.

Churches: soulariums.

Citizen: one who demands better roads, bigger schools, a new postoffice and lower taxes.

Civic pride: when you toss an empty cigarette pack on your neighbor's lawn instead of in the street.

Civilization: 1. a state of society in which the only people who speak about the future with any confidence are the fortune tellers. 2. a condition in which one generation pays the debts of the last generation by issuing bonds for the next generation to pay. 3. a slow process of adopting the ideas of minorities. 4. a process of creating more needs than means to supply. 5. that state of affairs in which money is collected from women who make up their faces and tint their nails, in order to send missionaries abroad to teach savages not to do the same. 6. a state of human development that moves a man to pay the laundry for destroying his shirts and collars.

Civil War golfer: out in 61 and back in 65.

Clarification: to fill in the background with so many details that the foreground goes underground.

Class hatred: the reason school kids play hookey.

Classic: book which people praise but don't read.

Classical music: when a piece threatens every minute to be a tune and always disappoints you.

Claustrophobia: an Alaskan in Texas.

Clever person: one who puts his problems away for a brainy day.

Climate: weather approved by the Chamber of Commerce.

Club, Exclusive. see Exclusive club.

Clue: something the detective finds when he can't find the criminal.

Cocktail glasses: hic cups.

Cocktail party: 1. an affair which pits the finish of the furniture against that of the guests. 2. a cheap and con-

venient means of mixing drinks and bores. 3. sort of a subway rush hour with martinis.

Coffee break: 1. anytime you can get a cup of coffee for a nickel. 2. the only fifteen minutes in the morning when the help stops doing nothing.

Cold shoulder: the unkindest cut of all.

Cold war: nations flexing their missiles.

College: an institution which some attend to pass examinations, others to pass time, and still others to pass footballs.

College bred: something that's made from the flower of youth and the dough of old age.

College professor: a guy who's paid to study the sleeping habits of students.

Committee: a group of people who singly can do nothing and who together decide that nothing can be done.

Committee meeting: where someone talks while no one listens.

Communist: a guy who says everything is perfect in Russia but stays here because he likes to rough it.

Compatible color: when the red smear on a man's handkerchief matches the color of his wife's lipstick.

Compromise: the art of dividing a cake in such a way that everyone believes that he has got the biggest piece.

Conceit: 1. what makes a woman think that her face is her fortune when it's only her beautician's. 2. nature's compensation for inferiority.

Condescension: the counterfeit coin that often passes for tolerance.

Conference: a meeting of the bored.

Confidence: 1. a feeling largely confined to freshmen. 2. the feeling that makes one believe a man, even when one knows that one would lie in his place. 3. a trait displayed by a woman who spends more than her husband earns.

Confirmed bachelor: one who believes that what God has put asunder, no man should join together.

Congress: a place where operations are directed by bloc heads.

Conscience: 1. the small inner voice that tells you the Internal Revenue Service might check your return. 2. that which tells you that instinct is wrong. 3. the still small voice that says, "Aha, you've been found out." 4. God's vice-regent on earth. 5. that small inner voice that doesn't speak your language.

Conservative: 1. one who wants you to keep your hand out of his pocket. 2. one who believes in the things forced on the world yesterday by radicals.

Consideration: when a woman shoots her husband with a bow and arrow so that she won't awaken the children.

Consultant: a man who knows less about your business than you do and gets more for telling you how to run it than you could possibly make out of it even if you ran it right instead of the way he tells you.

Contentment: that rare state acquired by a person who schools himself to be satisfied with what he has.

Convention: 1. where people pass a lot of resolutions but few bars. 2. what hotels put back their revolving doors after.

Cook book: a convenience used by an old-fashioned housekeeper for filing her own recipes.

Cookout, Successful: see Successful cookout.

Corkscrew: an implement used for opening bottles as well as conversation.

Corporate image: *what* you think of a company *when* you think of that company.

Cosmetics: a woman's way of keeping a man from reading between the lines.

Cough: something you yourself can't help, but everybody else does on purpose to torment you.

Counterbalance: when a woman buys a new dress and doesn't tell her husband until she has made him buy new suit.

Crackerjack: fireworks money.

Cribbage: infancy.

Criminal: one who does by illegal means what all the rest of us do legally.

Critic: one who finds a little bad in the best of things.

Cynic: 1. one who has sized himself up—and got sore about it. 2. a man who regards getting engaged as the first step towards divorce. 3. one who thinks the world never changes, only short changes. 4. a person who knows everything and believes nothing.

D

Dachshund: 1. a dog who wags his tail by remote control. 2. an animal which is half a dog high by a dog and a half long.

Dark Ages: knight time.

Dead giveaway: a canceled quiz show.

Debt: 1. what you get into if you spend as much as you tell your friends you earn. 2. what some people are head over deals in.

Debutante: a girl whose life is one mad whirl of activity . . . day in and night out.

Delinquent, Juvenile: see Juvenile delinquent.

Democracy: 1. a country in which everyone has an equal right to feel superior to the other fellow. 2. the art and science of running the circus from the monkey cage. 3. a system built by those who live to give and destroyed by those who live to get. 4. a form of government based upon the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people. 5. the recurrent suspicion that more than half the people are right more than half the time.

Dentist: fellow who bores you to tears.

Depression: see Readjustment.

Diamond: a chunk of coal that made good under pressure.

Diarist: a person who enjoys telling himself something he already knows.

Dictionary: 1. the only place where divorce comes before marriage. 2. a book in which one word leads to another.

Die-hard: a man who worships the very ground his head's in.

Dieting: accepting every loss as a gain.

Dime: a chip off the old buck.

Diplomacy: 1. the art of convincing people you really don't want something you know you can't get. 2. a synonym for discretion when the other guy is bigger. 3. to do and say the nastiest things in the nicest way. 4. the ability to pet a skunk and still smell like a lily.

Diplomat: 1. a husband who can convince his wife she wants an umbrella when she thinks she wants a fur coat. 2. a fellow who has to watch his appease and accuse. 3. one who can put in his oar without rocking the boat. 4. a person who uses his head without anyone suspecting it. 5. an artist who sketches the lines between which he hopes people will read. 6. one who can tell a man he's open-minded when he means he has a hole in his head.

Diplomatic blunder: a policy slip.

Discretion: something that comes to a person after he is too old for it to do him any good.

Discussion: an exchange of intelligence as opposed to *Argument* which is an exchange of ignorance.

Disillusionment: finding a corn pad when drinking champagne from a slipper.

Dividend: a certain percentum, per annum, perhaps.

Divorce: 1. a parting word. 2. when a woman takes a man for better or worse—but not for long.

Divorcee: one who marries for better or for worse . . . but not for good.

Doctor's office: a place where you find the newest in medicine and the oldest in reading material.

Dog: a welcome waggin'.

Dollar: a piece of metal or paper that never falls as low as the means some people use to get it.

Door: What a dog is perpetually on the wrong side of.

Dream: to look at night and see things.

Dreamer: a guy who can sit around reading travel folders after his vacation is over.
Dream house: one that costs twice as much as you dreamed it would.
Dreams: the free movies of sleep.
Drunkard: a fellow who is sot in his ways.
Duty: a word used to excuse our delight in hurting others.

E

Economics: the study of how limited resources can best be made to serve the unlimited wants of human beings.
Economics expert: a man who knows tomorrow why the things he said yesterday didn't happen today.
Ecstacy: a feeling when you feel you are going to feel a feeling you have never felt before.
Editor: a fellow with a little desk and a big waste basket.
Education: 1. that which remains when we have forgotten all that we have been taught. 2. the ability to describe a beautiful girl without using your hands. 3. the ability to quote Shakespeare without crediting it to the Bible. 4. what enables you to pass out insults and call it repartee. 5. knowledge that a chorus girl gets by stages and that a college girl gets by degrees.
Efficiency: using instant coffee to dawdle away an hour.
Efficiency expert: 1. a man who kills two birds with one stone and gets the stone back. 2. a man who spends a whole day getting out of an hour's work.
Egghead: 1. a fellow who thinks about thinking. 2. a guy who's found something more interesting than women.
Egotism: the art of seeing something in yourself which others can't see.
Egotist: 1. man with a practiced I. 2. a man who thinks he is all the things you think you are.
Eisenhower: the second American president with a Gettysburg address.
Elementary teacher: an unmarried den mother.

Embarrassment: watching the boss do what you just told him couldn't be done.

Engagement: an option on a life sentence.

Engagement period: a time of solitaire confinement.

Engagement ring: a tourniquet applied to the third finger of a girl's left hand to stop circulation.

Escape literature: a book in the jail library with a file in it.

Etiquette: the test of good manners is to put up pleasantly with bad ones.

Exclusive club: a place where you can meet the kind of people you would have black-balled, if you'd have gotten in first.

Executive: 1. a guy who is always annoying the hired help by asking them to do something. 2. a man of rare persuasion, of vision, power and force, who talks golf in the office and business on the course. 3. a man who can hand a letter back to a red-headed stenographer for a fourth typing. 4. a fellow who orders, directs and dictates all day long, and who then goes home and meekly dries the dishes. 5. a man who travels from his air-conditioned home to his air-conditioned office in an air-conditioned car and from there to his air-conditioned club to take a steam bath. 6. a man who decides; sometimes he decides right, but always he decides.

Executive ability: 1. deciding quickly and getting somebody else to do the work. 2. the faculty of earning your bread by the work of other people.

Experience: 1. that accumulated body of practical wisdom that enables us to have handy, whenever we are offered an unpleasant task, a completely logical reason for not doing it. 2. what you have left after you've lost everything else. 3. a comb which nature gives to men when they are bald.

Expert: one who has a good reason for guessing wrong.

Extravagant neighbor: one who lives beyond your means.

F

Failure, A: a man who has blundered and is not able to cash in on the experience.

Fame: a pedestal on which the victim is placed in order to give the world a better chance to throw bricks at him.

Family man: 1. one who has several mouths to feed... and one great big one to listen to. 2. one who has replaced the currency in his wallet with snapshots.

Family swimming pool: a small body of water completely surrounded by other people's children.

Fanatic: 1. one who will stick to his guns whether they're loaded or not. 2. a fellow with such a large chip on his shoulder that it makes him lose his balance.

Fanaticism: enthusiasm of the stupid.

Farmer, Successful: see Successful farmer.

Fashion: something that goes in one year and out the other.

Father: 1. a man who hopes to have enough money on Father's Day to pay the bills from Mother's Day. 2. a person forced to endure childbirth without the aid of an anesthetic. 3. a person who gives a daughter to another man who isn't nearly good enough, so there will be grandchildren who are smarter than anybody's. 4. a person who growls when he feels good and laughs when he's scared to death. 5. a banker provided by nature.

Father's Day: just like Mother's Day only you don't spend so much.

Figurehead: an accountant.

Finance companies: loan wolves.

Fireproof: being related to the boss.

Fishing hole: an uninhabited body of water surrounded by liars in old clothes.

Flatterer: one who has water in one hand and fire in the other.

Flattery: 1. insult wrapped as a gift. 2. something you hear about yourself that you wish were true.

Flirtation: wishful winking.

Football: a game played on Saturdays by 22 men before 50,000 or more spectators, most of whom never really went to college either.

Football game: a place where the spectators have four quarters in which to finish a fifth.

Football season: 1. when you watch the numbers on sweaters instead of in 'em. 2. the short warm-up period between spring practice and the winter bowl games.

Forecaster, Weather: see Weather forecaster.

Foreign country: where people tell us Americans to go home and leave them a loan.

Foreign land: a place where peasants try to array themselves as Americans would dress, if Americans weren't so busy adapting the colorful costumes of the peasants.

Foreign policy: a synthesis of conflicting interests played by ear.

Forger: one who writes a wrong.

Formal dance: a place where a woman who hasn't a thing to wear wears it.

Free country: one in which there is no particular individual to blame for the existing tyranny.

Free verse: the triumph of mind over meter.

Friend: 1. anybody who listens instead of argues. 2. one who is always thinking of *you*, when all others are thinking of themselves. 3. a person who knocks before he enters, not after he has taken his departure. 4. one who comes in when the whole world has gone out. 5. a present you give yourself. 6. a speaking acquaintance who also listens. 7. somebody you don't have to talk to. 8. someone you can count on to count on you. 9. someone who runs interference for you in your pursuit of happiness.

Friendship: two women mad at the same person.

Frustrated woman: the wife who finds a letter she gave to her husband to mail six months ago in the coat that

has been home since then to have a button sewed on.
Future: the past come home to roost.

G

Gardening: an early symptom of lumbago.
Gas: something your son can somehow manage to drive the family car into the garage on the last drop of.
Genealogist: one who traces your family tree as far back as your money will go.
Genius: 1. the ability to evade work by doing something right the first time it has to be done. 2. a man who shoots at something that no one else can see and hits it.
Gentleman: 1. one who does not blow his knows. 2. one who is nice even to those who can't be of any help to him. 3. a man who may shake his dog's paw, but not his servant's hand. 4. a fellow who when his wife drops something, kicks it to where she can pick it up more easily.
Gentleman farmer: 1. one with more hay in the bank than in the barn. 2. one who tips his hat every time he passes a good looking tomato.
Ghost writers: spooksmen.
Gigolo: one who feels the ladies owe him a loving.
G. I. haircut: a patch of hair with white sidewalls.
Girdle: 1. an uncomfortable item that makes women look comfortable. 2. polite name for a plain old-fashioned pot holder. 3. a device that begins at the bottom and works its way up. 4. a holdup in broad daylight. 5. a device for bringing a girl in on the beam.
Girdle manufacturer: one who lives on the fat of the land.
Girl: a person who will scream at a mouse, but smile at a wolf.
Goblet: a small sailor full of beer.
Go-getter: one who gets in behind you in a revolving door and comes out ahead of you.

Goldbrick: a clock-eyed person.
Gold digger: 1. a gal who doesn't mind whose means she lives beyond. 2. a girl who defrauds the males by using them. 3. a girl who mines her own business.
Golf: 1. a game in which a man spends a lot of good time having a bad one. 2. a game for gents too old for romance who still want to get into a trap. 3. a form of work made expensive enough for rich men to enjoy. 4. a game that has turned the cows out of the pasture and let the bull in. 5. a long walk punctuated with disappointments.
Golfer: one who yells "fore," takes six and puts down five.
Good executive: one who never does anything that he can get anybody else to do for him.
Good neighbor: one who is less for getting and more for giving.
Good old days: 1. when policemen didn't hide at the side of a busy road, but took their chances in traffic like anyone else. 2. when inflation was just something you did to a balloon.
Good secretary: one who can keep up with her boss when he's dictating and ahead of him when he's not.
Good teacher: someone who can understand those not good at explaining and explain it to those not good at understanding.
Good traveler: a good traveler is one who does not know where he is going to; a perfect traveler does not know where he came from.
Gossip: 1. strictly her-say. 2. a person who gives you the benefit of the dirt. 3. one who turns an earful into a mouthful. 4. what no one claims to like but everyone enjoys. 5. a free circulating library of lurid fiction. 6. a woman who makes up in suspicion what she lacks in knowledge. 7. a person who suffers from acute indiscretion.
Grandparents: people who come to your house, spoil your children, and then go home.

Grapefruit: that to which there is more than meets the eye.
Grasshopper: a bug that chews tobacco and camps out.
Grass widow: the wife of a dead vegetarian.
Gratitude: memory of the heart.
Greenhorn: the guy who arrived the day after you.
Green light: what a pedestrian uses to get half way across the street.
Grouch: a man who thinks that the world is against him—and it is.
Grouchy mother-in-law: no laughing mater.
Group medicine: where 25 relatives and friends pitch in with a cure apiece for the cold in your head.
Guest towel: a small square of non-absorbent fabric surrounded by waterproof embroidery.

H

Habit: 1. a chattel mortgage on a man's individuality. 2. a series of handcuffs closely locked to which the key has been lost.
Hairbrush: cure for unruly heir.
Hangover: when the brew of the night meets the cold of the day.
Hard times: 1. when hitchhikers are willing to go either way. 2. a season during which it is very difficult to borrow money to buy the things you don't need.
Hate: 1. a luxury no one can afford. 2. Hell's gift to the primitive mind. 3. the power of love misused.
Hatred: the coward's revenge for being intimidated.
Hen: an egg's way of making another egg.
Henpecked husband: one who gives his wife the best ears of his life.
Hiccoughs: messages from departed spirits.
Hi-Fi fan: one who believes that clarity begins at home.
Highbrow: 1. one who can quote from Shakespeare without attributing it to the Bible. 2. a person who enjoys a thing until it becomes popular.

High fidelity: two drunks swearing eternal allegiance.

High government official: one who has imbibed too freely.

High noon: three martinis before lunch.

High school age: when boys notice that girls notice boys who notice girls.

Highway robbery: the price of new cars.

Hildegarde: just another name dropper.

History: what enables each nation to use the other fellow's past record as an alibi.

Hobby: something you go nuts about to keep from going nuts about something else.

Hobo: a road's scholar.

Hollywood: a place where you live happily and get married forever afterward.

Hollywood contact man: all con and no tact.

Home: 1. the place where the college student home for vacation isn't. 2. the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in.

Home cooking: something that most modern women are not.

Home movies: the strange view people take of things.

Honeymoon: the morning after the knot before.

Hope: unwinding a knotted string you suspect won't be long enough anyway.

Horse-and-buggy days: when you lived until you died and not until you were just run over.

Horsepower: something which was much safer when only the horses had it.

Hospital room: a place where friends of the patient go to talk to other friends of the patient.

Hotel: where you stay when you ain't got no cousins.

Human nature: something that makes you swear at a pedestrian when you are driving and at the driver when you are a pedestrian.

Humorist: 1. a man who feels bad but who feels good about it. 2. a fellow who realizes, first, that he is no

better than anybody else, and second, that nobody else is either.

Husband: 1. a domesticated animal capable of being skinned more than once. 2. a bachelor whose luck finally failed him. 3. a man who wishes he had as much fun when he is out as his wife thinks he does. 4. a fellow who expects his wife to be perfect and to understand why he isn't. 5. a fellow who co-stars at a wedding and from then onwards has a supporting role. 6. a man who can wait all day for his dinner—but not five minutes more! 7. a curious mammal who buys his football tickets in June and his wife's Christmas present on December 24.

Husband, Henpecked: see Henpecked husband.

Hush hush business: baby sitting.

Hypochondriac: 1: a person who wants to have his ache and treat it too. 2. a man who is always on pills and needles.

Hypocrite: one who prays on his knees on Sundays and on his neighbors the remainder of the week.

I

Ice: one of the few things that is what it is cracked up to be.

Icicle: a great eaves-dropper.

Idea: the result of careful thought and experience, when you have it; when somebody else has it, it's a lucky hunch.

Ideal wife: 1. one who knows when her husband wants to be forced to do something against his will. 2. one who helps her husband with the dishes.

Ignoramus: a guy who doesn't know the meaning of a word you first learned yesterday.

Illegal: a sick bird.

Imagination: what makes you think you're having a wonderful time when you're really only spending money.

Immortality: the genius to move others long after you yourself have stopped moving.

Income tax forms: Blankety blanks.

Indispensable man: the motorist who whizzes past you just as you spot a motorcycle cop in the rear view mirror.

Infatuation: the feeling a woman has for the hat she wants; *Love*: the feeling a man has for the one he has.

Inflation: 1. being broke with a lot of money in your pocket. 2. too little for too many for too much. 3. when you take your money out in a shopping bag and bring home your purchases in your pocket. 4. when something that cost $10 new a few years ago, now costs $15 to repair. 5. when you pay top prices for something from the bottom of the barrel. 6. when, after you get the money to buy something, it isn't enough. 7. something similar to looking at your life's savings through the wrong end of a telescope. 8. when everybody is so rich that no one can afford anything.

Informed source: see Reliable source.

Initiative: doing the right thing without being told.

Ink: fluid for thought.

In-law: something like an outlaw . . . only more so.

Insomnia: when you can't sleep, even on the job.

Insurance policy: what they give you on page one and then take away from you on page two.

Intellectual snob: a man who won't speak to a beautiful girl on a train because he doesn't approve of the book she's reading.

Intelligent conversationalist: one who nods his head in agreement while you're talking.

Internal Revenue Service: the world's most successful mail order business.

Intuition: 1. what enables a woman to size up a situation in a flash of misunderstanding. 2. suspicion which turns out to be true.

Invention: daughter of necessity.

I.O.U.: a paper wait.

Irony: giving father a billfold for Christmas.

J

Jailer: a man with a confining job.
Janitor: floor flusher.
Jaywalker: see Pedestrian and Joy rider.
Jaywalking: a kind of exercise that brings on that run-down feeling.
Jilted: when the groom buys the bride the wedding gown then gives her the slip.
Joy rider: one who is riding while we are walking; *Jaywalker*: one who is walking while we are riding.
June: the month when a girl gets a Lohengrin on her face.
Juvenile delinquency: the result of parents trying to train children without starting at the bottom.
Juvenile delinquent: 1. a youngster who prefers vice to advice. 2. a minor who is a major problem. 3. a troubled boy whose parents are too poor to send him to a boarding school 3,000 miles away when he gets into trouble.
Juvenile delinquents: teen-agers who want what they want when they want it and won't wait to get it.

K

Kindergarten teacher: a woman who makes little things in life count.
Kindness: a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can read.
Kleptomaniac: 1. a person who suffers from fits of abstraction. 2. one who helps himself because he can't help himself.

L

Lame duck: a politician who is in the process of becoming a cooked goose.

Landlord: 1. a man who often raises a tenant's rent when the tenant himself can't raise it. 2. a man who would rather sleep than heat.

Las Vegas: 1. a place where you can lose your appetite at the table. 2. where when you're dead your number *isn't* up. 3. where the odds are you won't get even. 4. where you get aces wild and faces riles.

Lawyer: a man who hires out his words and anger.

Leisure: the time you spend on jobs you don't get paid for.

Leisure time: the finished product of greater efficiency.

Library: a place where the dead live.

Life: 1. the struggle to keep one's earning capacity up to one's yearning capacity. 2. what happens to us while we are making other plans.

Limousine: a car with a glass partition to shut out stupid remarks from the back seat.

Linguist: a man who masters every tongue but his wife's.

Lipstick: something which merely adds color and flavor to an old pastime.

Literary agent: someone to help you fight the Indians.

Literary critic: a person who can find a meaning in literature that the author didn't know was there.

Literary movement: two authors who live in the same city and hate each other.

Loneliness: a prison that can be opened only from inside.

Lorgnette: sneer on a spear.

Lost weekend: the shortest distance between two pints.

Love: 1. a game which is never called off on account of darkness. 2. the thing that enables a woman to sing while she mops up the floor after her husband has walked across it in his barn boots. 3. a condition of mind at a time when the mind is out of condition.

Love letters: jilt-edge securities.

Lovesick boy: one whose pretty girl is like a malady.

Luck: good planning, carefully executed.

Luxury: something you do without until getting it, but by that time it has become a necessity.

Luxury hotel: a place where guests are welcomed with *open palms*.

M

Madam: one for whom the belles toil.

Malady: what a lot of music looks and sounds like on television.

Man: 1. that wonderful creature which goes to the South Pole, climbs Mt. Everest, yearns to visit the moon, but is terrified by the idea of moving to the rear of the bus. 2. a creature who has to argue down another man's opinion before he can believe in his own.

Manufacturing genius: a guy who makes a thing just strong enough to hold together until the last installment is paid.

Marriage: 1. all your money down and the rest of your life to pay. 2. when a man gets hooked with his own line. 3. a lottery in which everybody's trying to get even. 4. the high sea for which no compass has yet been invented. 5. an indissoluble contract in which one party obtains from the other more than either may ever hope to repay. 6. a duet or a duel. 7. a committee of two on ways and means, with authority to add to their number 8. a horrible public confession of a strictly private intention. 9. a life sentence with partial remission for bad conduct. 10. an institution in which a man loses his bachelor's degree and a woman gets her master's. 11. a condition where two can live more cheaply than one wants to. 12. love parsonified. 13. a lottery in which men stake their liberty and women their happiness.

Marriage license: an I.O.U. for all the promises a man makes when he's courting.

Married life: one undarned thing after another.

Married man: 1. a guy who drives with both hands. 2. a bachelor who didn't notice when a girl closed the escape hatch.

Maternity dress: a space suit.

Matrimony: the only union which permits a woman to work unlimited overtime without extra pay.

Maturity: the ability to remain equally unruffled when the elevator boy calls you "Pop" and the senior partner calls you "Son."

Maxim: a short rule of conduct made up by the rich to encourage the poor to keep on working.

Medicine: 1. inside dope. 2. the only profession that labors incessantly to destroy the reason for its own existence.

Meeting: a mass mulling by master minds.

Memory: 1. what tells a man his wedding anniversary was yesterday. 2. what enables you to call a man by a name that's vaguely like his. 3. the power to gather roses in winter.

Memory expert: a woman who has once been told another woman's right age.

Mermaid: not enough fish to fry and not enough woman to love.

Metronome: a very small man working on the Paris Underground Railway.

Middle age: 1. when a woman's hair starts turning from gray to black. 2. that time of life when, if you're not careful, you will attract widespread attention from your mirror. 3. when you want to see how long your car will last instead of how fast it will go. 4. when your memory is shorter, your experience longer, your stamina lower and your forehead higher. 5. that point in life when you use all the wrinkles you can find to get rid of the old ones. 6. when you feel on Saturday night the way you used to feel on Monday morning. 7. when you're thin on top and not on the bottom. 8. the time a man starts turning out the light for economical rather than romantic reasons. 9. that difficult period between juvenile delinquency and senior citizenship when you have to take care of yourself. 10. when each day makes you feel two days older. 11. when the

air is springy and you are not. 12. what a person who is on the verge of being elderly thinks he is. 13. that period in life when your children leave you one by one, only to return two by two. 14. when you decide that you are thick and tired of it all. 15. when a daily dozen is followed by several days of daily doesn't. 16. the time of life when your idea of getting ahead is to stay even. 17. the time of life when the hardest thing to raise in your garden is your knees. 18. youth gone to waist. 19. when you start out with a spring in your step, and wind up with a fall in your arch. 20. when you're old enough to know better, but young enough to keep on doing it. 21. when you look both ways before crossing a one-way street. 22. when you get less for your money every time you go to the barber. 23. later than you think; sooner than you expected. 24. that time in life when you wish there was some other way of starting the day than by getting up. 25. when you are impressed not with the fact that the grass is greener on the other side of the fence but rather how difficult the fence looks to get over. 26. when you'd rather pay the piper than dance.

Milk: a liquid that has the decency to get sour when it's no longer fit to drink.

Millionaire: a man with enough lettuce to choose his own tomatoes.

Minor sport: one in which the coach makes only slightly more than a full professor.

Mint julep: depth bomb with a Southern drawl.

Minute man: one who can make it to the refrigerator and back with a sandwich while the commercial is on.

Miracle: something that someone does that cannot be done.

Mirage: where the little man who wasn't there keeps his automobile.

Miser: 1. a person who gets his money the hoard way. 2. a person who is always close but whom you cannot touch. 3. a man who lives poor so that he can die rich.

Miserable gossip: someone with no troubles to speak of.

Misogynist: a man who sent his picture to a lonely hearts club and got back the reply, "Our members are not that lonely."

Misstep: something that usually starts with a little trip.

Moderate: a man who makes enemies left and right.

Modern age: one who is proud of machines that think, and suspicious of any man who tries to.

Modern art: oodles of doodles.

Modern hitching-post: the third finger of a girl's left hand.

Modern home: one that has half as much room for twice as much money.

Modern kitchen: one where the pot calls the kettle chartreuse.

Modern man: one who drives a mortgaged car over a bond-financed highway on credit-card gas.

Modern sculptor: a man who can take a rough block of stone or wood, work on it for months, and make it look like a rough block of stone or wood.

Modern wife: one who knows what her husband's favorite dishes are and the restaurants that serve them.

Money: 1. something that things run into and people run out of. 2. something that brushes by you on its way to the income tax people.

Morale: a condition where your hands and feet keep on working when your head says it just can't be done.

Moratorium: just the highbrow way of admitting that there doesn't seem to be any blood in the turnip.

Moron: 1. one who wrinkles his brow while reading the comics. 2. anyone who doesn't laugh at your jokes; also one who does.

Mosquito: the original skin diver.

Most henpecked husband: one whose wife makes him wash and iron his own aprons.

Moth: an insect that eats modern bathing suits in one gulp.

Mother: a woman who runs a temperature of 103 every time her child's temperature hits 101.
Motherhood: the thrill of a wife-time.
Mother-in-law, Grouchy: see Grouchy mother-in-law.
Movie hero: the guy who can pick out a seat and ignore the usher.
Movie magazine: a periodical filled with idol gossip.
Multi-million dollar highway: a ribbon of concrete that can be snarled up in two minutes by a stalled $100 jalopy in a quarter-inch snow storm.
Mummy: an Egyptian who was pressed for time.

N

Neighbor: a person who is always doing something you can't afford.
Nervousness: when you feel in a hurry all over and can't get started.
Neurotic: a person who can't leave being well enough alone.
New Year Resolution: something that proves most of our weaknesses.
Non-churchgoers: a Seven Day Absentist.
Non-conformist: a person who keeps gloves in the glove compartment.
Nostalgia: a long, lingering regret that things were never what they used to be.
Nudists: folks who grin and bare it.
Nylon hose: sheer today and gone tomorrow.

O

Oboe: an ill-wind which nobody blows good.
Obstacles: those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off the goal.
Off-day: the day after a day off.
Office drinking fountain: Old faceful.
Old age: 1. when one gives up any idea of making home runs and is happy not to be struck out. 2. when you

pay more attention to pampering your wild corns than to sowing wild oats. 3. the time when men pay more attention to their food than they do to the waitresses. 4. when you do more and more for the last time and less and less for the first time. 5. that time of life when a man flirts with girls but can't remember why.

Old college classmate: someone who's gotten so bald and fat that he sees you at a class reunion and doesn't recognize you.

Old fashioned girl: one who removes the cigarette from her mouth before putting her nightie on over her head.

Old fashioned town: one that's lighted by electricity only during a thunderstorm.

Old maid: a woman in the prim of life.

Old timer: 1. one who didn't know a poor fish was one who had no big fins on his car. 2. one who remembers when there was a faster way of throwing money down the drain than by calling a plumber. 3. a person who remembers when a sensational novel contained asterisks. 4. a person who can remember when the only dirty books in a library were the dusty ones. 5. one who remembers when a girl didn't care whether a spinning wheel had white-wall tires or not. 6. one who remembers when parents cut switches instead of rugs. 7. a man who can remember when you saw less of a woman on the beach than you see on the street today. 8. a person who remembers when your coffee breaks came with your meals. 9. a fellow who has made the last payment on his house. 10. one who remembers when the telephone was a convenience. 11. one who remembers when the moon inspired only romance instead of space travel. 12. one who can remember when a man could tell a risque story in mixed company without boring the ladies present. 13. one who remembers when a kid who got a licking at school was in for another when he got home. 14. one who remembers when the best music heard on radio wasn't in the commercials. 15. one who remembers when eight-forty was

the time the play started, not the price of the ticket. 16. one who can recall when the law suspended crooks instead of sentences. 17. one who remembers when movie serials and breakfast cereals both were silent. 18. one who remembers when the only skin diver was a mosquito. 19. a man who lived in an era when the day was done before he was. 20. one who remembers when a fellow who blew his horn was a braggart, instead of a Sunday driver. 21. one who remembers when the papers talked about millions for defense. 22. a fellow who can remember when an automobile salesman said, "500," he was referring to price, not horsepower. 23. one who remembers when you could promise a child the moon without having to buy him a space suit. 24. one who can remember when an allergy was just an itch and all you did was scratch it. 25. one who can remember when virtue was a virtue and not a vice. 26. one who can remember when a child who misbehaved to get attention—got it. 27. one who can remember when a woman didn't have to be old to be middle-aged. 28. one who can recall when a fellow wasn't considered a good driver just because he hadn't killed anybody. 29. one who remembers when the national income was smaller than the present federal budget. 30. one who can remember when the "5 and 10 cent" store meant just that. 31. one who can remember when a baseball game was called on account of darkness. 32. one who can remember when church collection plates got most of the money golf courses now get on Sundays. 33. one who can remember when people worried about dying broke instead of living that way. 34. one who can remember when a businessman spent his time trying to corner the market instead of his secretary. 35. one who recalls when radio activity was mostly static. 36. one who can remember when a fellow wondered where his next dollar was coming from instead of where it had gone. 37. one who can remember when a girl married a man for his money instead

of divorcing him for it. 38. one who remembers when you didn't add another room on the house until you had three more children. 39. one who remembers when a woman who had equal rights didn't think she was underprivileged. 40. one who can remember when "setting the world afire" was merely a figure of speech.

Opportunism: the ability to park on the other fellow's nickel.

Opportunist: 1. a manufacturer who, knowing the world is going to the dogs, starts a dog food factory. 2. the man that makes hay of the grass you let grow under your feet. 3. a girl who, after eloping by using knotted sheets, remembers to take the sheets with her.

Opportunity: that which, if you have not thought out what it means, you cannot recognize when it comes.

Optimism: the digitalis of failure.

Optimist: 1. someone who thinks that love is a game of chance. 2. a person who drops a quarter in the collection plate and expects a $5 sermon. 3. a man who believes his wife won't buy a new hat, just because she doesn't see one she likes. 4. a man who does the best he can under all circumstances. 5. a proponent of the theory that black is white. 6. a father who is willing to let his teen-age son take the brand new car on a date; Pessimist: one who isn't Cynic: one who did. 7. a man who, instead of feeling sorry he can't pay his bills, is glad he isn't your creditor. 8. a fellow who takes the cold water thrown on his ideas, heats it with enthusiasm, makes steam, and pushes ahead. 9. a guy who can always see the bright side of other people's troubles. 10. a man who thinks that when his shoes wear out he will be back on his feet. 11. a grown-up man who decides to take up ice-skating again, with a bottle on his hip. 12. a ninety-year-old man who is getting married and wants to buy a home near a school. 13. one who thinks that betting on horses is gambling. 14. a bridegroom who thinks he has no bad habits. 15. a fellow who realizes right now that some day these will

be the good old days. 16. the fellow who waits for his ship to come in—when he hasn't sent one out. 17. a man who sees a light that is not there; a pessimist is the fool who tries to blow it out. 18. one who believes everything he reads on the jacket of a new book. 19. a guy who buys a lifetime pen and expects it to last at least a month.

Orator: a public speaker whose audience would be much better off if he were addressing envelopes.

Originality: the art of remembering what you hear and forgetting where you heard it.

Overheating: 1. what makes you thick to your stomach. 2. the destiny that shapes our ends.

Overweight: just desserts.

P

Pain: nature's policeman.

Panelist: someone with an ability to think on his seat.

Parents: 1. people who always think their children would behave if they didn't play with the kids next door. 2. people who lie awake wondering if daughter's dream-boat is one of those ships that make a pass in the night. 3. people who bear infants, bore teen-agers, and board newlyweds.

Park drinking fountain: Old Faceful.

Patriot: a citizen who can whistle "The Star-Spangled Banner" while the tax collector is examining his books.

Pauper: a poor fish without a fin.

Pawnbroker: a guy who lives on the flat of the land.

Peace: 1. the luxury you enjoy between the children's bedtime and your own. 2. goodwill effectively asserted against greed. 3. a blessing that can be made perpetual if nations will agree not to make new wars until they have paid for the old ones.

Pedal-pushers: a kind of pants worn as a compromise by a woman whose husband can't decide whether she looks worse in slacks or Bermuda shorts.

Pedestrian: 1. a guy who knows there are still several gallons of gas in the tank when the guage shows empty. 2. a man who has two cars, a wife, and a daughter. 3. a person who can't find the place where he parked his car.

Pedestrian-Jaywalker: a pedestrian is one who walks when you are walking; a jaywalker is one who walks when you are driving.

Perfect guest: one who makes his host feel at home.

Perfect husband: one who is convinced he has a perfect wife.

Perfectionist: 1. a person who chooses a picnic site as if it were to be his permanent home. 2. one who never quite finishes what he started out to be.

Perfect traveler: see Good traveler.

Perfect wife: 1. one willing to help her husband with the housework. 2. one who will sit up with you when you are ill, and put up with you when you're not.

Personal taxes: the unkindest cut of all.

Pessimist: 1. a sentimental optimist who expected too much. 2. the fellow who financed an optimist. 3. a person, who when smelling flowers, looks around for the funeral. 4. one who thinks all is lost because he is not running it. 5. a gloomy person who passes all his days in constant expectation of the unexpected. 6. a guy who fills up every time he sees a gas station; optimist: one who believes the gasoline mileage promises of the salesman who sold him the car. 7. a former optimist who taught the lady folks in his family how to drive. 8. a man who thinks the whole world is against him—and, what's more, he's right.

Pheasant under glass: a small bird with a large bill.

Philosophical: a cheerful attitude assumed by everybody not directly involved in the trouble.

Photographer: 1. one who always insists on accentuating the negative. 2. a person who takes your picture and makes you pay to get it back.

Piggy banks: pennytentiaries.

Pin money: bowling fee.

Pioneer: anyone who settled there before they raised the taxes.

Platonic friendship: one that half the town says isn't.

Poet: one who makes his living the hard way.

Poise: looking like an owl after behaving like a donkey.

Political bedfellows: men who usually use the same bunk.

Political convention: a gathering at which factions speak louder than wards.

Political promises: those that go in one year and out the other.

Political timber: what you'll find on the stump during an election year.

Politician: 1. a fellow who loves a wordy cause. 2. a fellow who approaches every question with an open mouth. 3. some one who shakes your hand before the election and your confidence afterward. 4. a guy who contrasts his wings and halo against his opponent's horns and tail. 5. one who succeeds by playing both ends against the taxpayer.

Politician, Successful: see Successful politician.

Politics: 1. a balancing act between people who want to get into it and people who don't want to get out of it. 2. a game in which some men are self-made but most are machine-made.

Popular song: one that has the happy virtue of making all of us think we can sing.

Practical engineer: one who perpetuates the errors of his predecessors.

Practical nurse: one who falls in love with a wealthy patient.

Praise: something a person tells you about yourself that you've suspected all along.

Prejudice: 1. being positive about something negative. 2. an unwillingness to be confused with the facts.

Pretzel: a drinking man's filter.

Primitive country: one that has no taxes to handle juvenile delinquency, in case it gets civilized enough to achieve it.

Principal: a man who takes children into his office and hits them with the Board of Education.

Prisoner: one who doesn't mind being interrupted in the middle of a sentence.

Private nurse: too cute for wards.

Problems: opportunities in work clothes.

Procrastinator: 1. one who puts off until tomorrow things he's already put off until today. 2. a person who can't put away the garden tools until the snow thaws.

Professional bachelor: one who realizes he's stuck with himself for life and can't do a thing about it.

Progress: when you're just getting used to something and somebody invents something better that you won't have time to get used to before somebody invents something better.

Prohibitionist: a fellow who thinks that what you drink is going to hurt him.

Promises, Political: see Political promises.

Propaganda: an opinion with which you do not agree.

Psychiatrist: a guy who tells you all the things you should do to get better and then takes all your dough so you can't afford to. 2. a fellow who convinces you that your parents were failures because you turned out to be a louse. 3. a physician who hates the sight of blood.

Psychiatry: 1. the art of analyzing ouches on couches. 2. old fashioned cracker barrel philosophy, modernized, at a price.

Psychoanalysis: panned parenthood.

Psychoanalyzed patient: altered ego.

Psycho-ceramic: a crackpot.

Psychologist: a man you pay to ask you questions your wife asks you for nothing.

Public opinion: that mysterious, variable of political calculation.

Pugilist: a guy who makes money hand over fist.

Push-button warfare: competition for the use of an automatic elevator.

R

Rabbit: a small animal that's here today and mink tomorrow.

Racehorse: the only animal that can take several thousand people for a ride at the same time.

Race track: 1. a place where you can lose your dough window shopping. 2. a place where people look for the right odds to get even.

Raving beauty: the girl who finished second in a beauty contest.

Readjustment: when your neighbor loses his job. Recession: when you lose your job. Depression: when your wife loses her job.

Reality: dirty dishes in the sink that are still there when you come home.

Recession: see also Readjustment. 1. when you lose *your* job; depression: when I lose *mine*. 2. a period when sales are down 5 per cent and staff meetings are up 25 per cent. 3. when prices are reduced to where you could afford them if you were still enjoying prosperity.

Reckless driver: one who passes you on the highway, in spite of all you can do.

Reformed playboy: a cut-down cut-up.

Reform school: a brat trap.

Relative humidity: those times when you think your rich uncle is all wet.

Reliable source: the guy you just met; informed source: the guy who told the guy you just met; unimpeachable source; the guy who started the rumor originally.

Religion: insurance in this world against a fire in the next.

Remorse: a miscalculation of the chances of detection.

Reno: where the cream of society goes to be separated.

Reputation: 1. character minus what you've been caught doing. 2. something to live up to in your youth and to live down in old age.
Research: 1. an organized method for keeping you reasonably dissatisfied with what you have. 2. to see what everybody else has seen, and think what nobody has thought.
Research notes: things you keep for thirty years, then throw away the day before you need them.
Retribution: when a talkative barber marries a gabby woman.
Rhubarb: celery with high blood pressure.
Rich man: nothing but a poor man with money.
Ring, Wedding: see Wedding ring.
Rock and roll: a truck loaded with empty tin cans smashing into a greenhouse.
Robber: what a doctor and a TV service man call one another.
Rolling pin: a night club.
Rut: a grave with the ends knocked out.

S

Sadist: one who does kind things for a masochist.
Sagacity: buying a needle instead of hunting for one in a haystack.
Salary: 1. what a husband commands and his wife commandeers. 2. an amount of money that, no matter how large it is, some people spend more money than.
Salesman, Top: see Top salesman.
Santa Anita: Spanish for instant poverty.
Scale, Bathroom: see Bathroom scale.
Scene stealer: a guy who puts up billboards.
Schedule: that wonderful little gimmick which enables a housewife to do approximately one half of the things she had planned.
School teacher: one who takes a lot of live wires and sees to it that they are well grounded.

Second story man: the fellow whose wife doesn't believe his first story.

Secretary: 1. a girl who can tell by a caller's name whether or not the boss is in. 2. a girl you pay to learn to type while she's looking for a husband.

Self-control: calling a spade a spade after stubbing your toe on one.

Senior partner: the fellow who has nothing to do between trips to Florida; Junior partner: the boss' son.

Sentimentality: the name we give to any sentiment we are incapable of feeling.

Servant: a woman who's here today and gone tomorrow.

Sex appeal: 1. fifty per cent what you've got and fifty per cent what people think you've got. 2. something that makes feminine capital out of masculine interest.

Sexton: someone who minds his keys and pews.

Shock absorbers: parents.

Short cut: a route on which you can't find anybody to ask where you are.

Silence: 1. wisdom in dead storage. 2. the most perfect expression of scorn.

Single file: a girl's file of eligible bachelors.

Single fund-raising effort: putting all of your bags in one ask it.

Skeptic: a fellow who won't take know for an answer.

Sleeping bag: a nap sack.

Slogan: a good old American substitute for facts.

Small talk: patter of little feats.

Small town: 1. where you chat on the phone for an hour or so, even when you get the wrong number. 2. where you pinch a girl and everybody squeals. 3. a place where the street lights dim when you plug in your electric razor. 4. a place where everybody knows what everyone else is doing, but still read the local papers to see if they got caught at it. 5. a place where the news gets around before the newspapers does. 6. a place where the fellow with the black eye doesn't have to explain to anybody—*they know*.

Smart girl: one who can lie convincingly enough to make a man believe that he's as smart as he thinks he is.
Smile: 1. radiant lighting. 2. a curve that can set a lot of things straight.
Snappy comeback: something you think of twelve hours after you were tongue-tied by somebody else's wise-crack.
Snobbishness: high-hattitude.
Snow tires: those wonderful things that you put on just after the first blizzard of the late autumn and take off just before the last one of the early spring.
So-and-so: the fellow driving the other car.
Soap opera: corn on the sob.
Social security: when a boy has the only football or base-ball in the neighbourhood.
Society folks: the upper crust, made from crumbs and held together by dough.
Sophistication: 1. liking something you don't like. 2. the art of admitting that the unexpected is just what you anticipated.
Sound barrier: what you should have between the rum-pus room and the rest of the house.
Spa: a place where people drink their bath water.
Space suit: maternity dress.
Spare tire: the one you check the day after you have a flat.
Spell: something that if a stenographer can, she'll never be out of work for too long a.
Spendthrift: a neighbor who makes more money than you do.
Spinster: 1. a woman who is unhappily unmarried. 2. a girl with a wait problem.
Spring: the glorious time of the year when your neighbor comes by with an invitation for golf just as you have your hands full of storm windows.
Stable government: one with plenty of horse sense.
Stockings: an article of wearing apparel that covers a multitude of shins.

Store detective: counter spy.

Straight actress: 36-36-36.

Strong-minded person: one who doesn't NO his own mind.

Success: 1. something that always comes faster to the man your wife almost married. 2. the art of making your mistakes when nobody is looking. 3. when a man's wife takes most of the credit and the government takes most of the cash. 4. the proper ration between what one contributes and what one derives from life. 5. the ability to get along with some people—and ahead of others.

Successful business executive: a man who has an infinite capacity for taking planes.

Successful comedian: one who has succeeded in making a complete asset of himself.

Successful cookout: one at which the host pulls up steaks before the fat is in the fire.

Successful farmer: one who has the summer stock company hold over in his barn an extra week.

Successful man: 1. one who can carry out five per cent of the good intentions he had when he left school. 2. one who looks for work after he has found a job. 3. usually an average man who either had a chance or took a chance. 4. one who spends more time taking the bull by the horns than shooting it. 5. one who does what he has to do at the time he hates to do it most.

Successful politician: 1. a person who can take a popular economic fallacy and make a major plank for his party. 2. one who can get in the public eye without irritating it.

Summer: 1. the topsy-turvy season when the goldfish have to be boarded out while the family goes on a fishing trip. 2. that season of the year when everything that is supposed to stick together comes apart, and everything that is supposed to stay apart sticks together. 3. when you ride bumper to bumper to get to the beach where you sit the same way. 4. the time

when it's too hot to do the things it was too cold to do in the winter. 5. the time of the year when mothers need a teacher's patience.

Summer resort: 1. a place where the natives live on your vacation until the next summer. 2. a pleasant strutting ground where nobody knows how unimportant you are at home.

Sunday night: weak end of the week-end.

Suspended sentence: one where the prisoner is hanged.

Suspicion: trying to find out what you'll wish later you didn't know.

Sweater girl: one who pulls your eyes over the wool.

Swish: a guy with delusions of gender.

Sympathy: your pain in my heart.

T

Tact: 1. the ability to convince a man who's sure he's never wrong that he is occasionally right. 2. the art of lying out of it gracefully. 3. what a guy has when he won't change his mind—but can change the subject. 4. something a girl uses to make a slow man think he's a fast worker.

Tactful wife: one who makes sure that her husband can't afford another woman.

Take-home pa: so-called because it's not big enough to get there by itself.

Taxation: the art of plucking the goose to secure the greatest amount of feather with the least amount of squawking.

Taxes: a method used by the government to artificially induce the rainy day everybody has been saving for.

Tax expert: a legal-beagle who saves you the amount of his fee.

Taxi: that which when you want one there ain't any of.

Taximeter: a device for showing how fast you aren't getting there.

Taxpayer: one who does not have to pass a civil service test to work for the government.

Teacher, Elementary: see Elementary teacher.

Tears, Women's: see Women's tears.

Technocracy: communism with spats.

Teen-age: 1. the interval between pigtails and cocktails. 2. when youngsters aren't bright enough to realize their parents couldn't be that stupid. 3. the years between the time people are too young to do the things they would like to do, and the time when they are too old to do them. 4. the time in life when girls begin to powder and boys begin to puff.

Teen-ager: 1. one of a crowd who are alike in many disrespects. 2. a gawky-talkie.

Telephone booth: a vertical coffin where sweet dispositions and good humor are buried.

Television: 1. chewing gum for the eyes. 2. a lot of people with nothing to do watching a lot of people doing it.

Television set: an electric device which, when broken, stimulates conversation.

Thrift: 1. a moss-grown obsession of those primitive men whose accomplishment was to create the United States of America. 2. the art of buying a complexion to match a hat instead of buying a hat to match a complexion.

Time: 1. that which the average American never seems to have quite enough of and is nearly always behind. 2. a system of folds which only death can unfold. 3. that which heroes have the knack of arriving in the nick of.

Time-killing: suicide on the installment plan.

Tolerance: 1. the ability to laugh when somebody steps on your mental corns. 2. the ability to keep your shirt on when you're hot under the collar. 3. the oil which takes the friction out of life. 4. the ability to smile when someone else's child behaves as badly as your own.

Tomboy: a girl who hasn't yet discovered that her strength lies in her weakness.

Tombstone: the only thing that has a good word for a man when he's down.

Tomorrow: a husband's greatest labor-saving device.

Top salesman: one who sells two milking machines to a farmer with one cow and then takes the cow as a down payment.

Tourist: 1. a person with a heavy tan on his left forearm. 2. a man who travels to see things that are different and then complains when they aren't the same.

Tree surgeon: a doctor who fell out of his patient.

True friend: one who thinks you're a good egg even when you're busted.

Trust: a large body of capitalists wholly surrounded by water.

Turkey in the straw: a flop in summer theatre.

TV celebrity: a person who is very much in the public eye and often gets into the public's hair.

TV singer: a gal with a range from a high C to a low V.

TV spectacular: the bill you get from the repairman.

U

Umpire: an authority on diamonds.

Undertaker: your best friend—at least, the last man to let you down.

Unimpeachable source: see Reliable source.

United Nations building: a site for sore allies.

University: 1. a vast athletic association where some studies are maintained for the benefit of the feeble-bodied. 2. a place where they have room for 2,000 in the classroom and 50,000 in the stadium. 3. where the girls go out for facts and the boys go in for figures.

Up-to-date house: one with wall-to-wall carpeting, wall-to-wall windows, and back-to-wall financing.

V

Vacation: 1. three weeks on the sands—the rest of the year on the rocks. 2. what you take when you can't take what you've been taking. 3. a time when you get away from the people and places you love best so that you can put up with them when you get back.

Vacation time: that season of the year when a man stops doing what the boss tells him to do and does what his wife wants.

Valentine Day: the day when men figure that one bottle of cheap perfume is supposed to cover up for the stinker you've been all year.

Virgin forest: a place where the hand of man has never set foot.

Vocabulary: something which permits a man to describe a shapely girl without using his hands.

W

Waffle: a pancake with non-skid tread.

Wallflower: a girl without a gent to her name.

War: a proceeding that ruins those who win.

Washington: the city bureauful.

Wealth: any income that is at least $100 more a year than the income of one's wife's sister's husband.

Weather forecaster: someone with whom the weather doesn't always agree.

Wedding ring: a one man band.

Weekend: when you slow down to let the strain go by.

Welfare state: one run for the benefit of everyone but the taxpayer.

Well-adjusted person: one who can play golf and bridge as if they were games.

Well-informed man: one whose wife has just told him what she thinks of him.

Widower: the only man who has an angel for a wife.

Wife: 1. a person who sits up with you when you are sick and puts up with you when you are not. 2. a person who can ride through the most magnificent scenery in the world with her eyes glued to the speedometer. 3. an ingenious device for detecting lies.

Wife, Ideal: see Ideal wife.

Will power: what every man has until he tries to give up smoking.

Wisecrack: what results from a good opening.

Wise man: one who seldom blows his knows.

Wolf: 1. a guy who knows all the ankles. 2. a man of single purpose and double talk. 3. a man who wants an "aye" for an eye. 4. a man who is waiting for the right girl to come alone. 5. a guy who believes in wine, women and so-long. 6. a man who tries to make life a bed of ruses. 7. a character whose park is worse than his bite. 8. a modern cleaner who works fast and leaves no ring.

Woman: 1. a creature that is expensive when picked up, but explosive when dropped. 2. the female of the speeches. 3. a thing of beauty and a jaw forever.

Women: the plural of whim.

Women's tears: water power.

Wonder drug: a medicine that makes you wonder whether you can afford to get sick these days.

Work: something that has never killed anybody but seems to scare some people half to death.

Worry: 1. a rocking chair which gives you something to do, but doesn't take you very far from your problems. 2. a circle of inefficient thought whirling about a pivot a fear. 3. stewing without doing.

Y

Yawn: silence with an exclamation mark.

Yom Kippur: instant Lent.

Youth: that time of life when you can be a college track star during the day, but can't go to the corner drug-store at night without the family car.

Z

Zig-zag line: the shortest distance between two joints.

Air-conditioning, 208
Aircraft designer—Aircraft designers, 753
Air Force, 1057
Airplane—Airplanes, 138, 316, 735, 1543
Airport—Airports, 160, 741, 1553
Alabama, State of, 10, 256
Alarm—Alarms, 331
Alarm, Burglar, 1028
Alarm clock—Alarm clocks, 1327, 1407
Alaska, State of, 788
Albert, Prince, 690
Alcoholic—Alcoholics, 1083
Alcoholic liquor, 19, 22, 23, 56, 189, 250, 364, 374, 377, 382, 540, 638, 900, 941, 1046, 1069, 1226, 1358, 1414, 1486, 1524
Alcoholics Anonymous, 22, 389
Alexander the Great, 161
Algebra, 509
Algeria, 250
Alibi—Alibis, 700, 745
Alimony, 318
All-Star team, 493
Alma Mater, 696
Alms, 164
Alphabet—Alphabetical, 1054, 1478
Alternative—Alternatives, 328, 1481
Alumni, 1218
Amateur—Amateurs, 277
Amateur photographer—Amateur photographers, 1000
Ambassador, Mexican, 696
Ambition, 186, 1239
Ambitionless, 517
Ambulance—Ambulances, 451
Amendment — Amendments, 64
America — American — Americans, 12, 24, 25, 28, 34, 244, 245, 248, 250, 302, 497, 498, 710, 732, 803, 995, 1009, 1292, 1316, 1322, 1410, 1422, 1433, 1452, 1466, 1537-1539
American Revolution, Sons of, 1494
Amherst College, 406
Amnesia, 1097
Amplifying system, 1064
Amusement, 449, 738
Anatomy, 2, 1146
Ancestor — Ancestors, 1494, 1505
Ancestry, 26-28
Anderson, Robert B., 260
Anecdote—Anecdotes, 1002
Angel—Angels, 557, 677, 754
Anger, 164, 993, 1153
Angina pectoris, 1377
Animal—Animals, 41, 544, 604, 779, 820, 1238
Animal kingdom, 898
Anne, Queen, 31
Anniversary — Anniversaries, 1071
Anniversary, Golden wedding, 691, 878
Anniversary, Wedding, 571, 697, 727, 882
Anonymity, 29, 30, 389
Anti-American, 25
Anticipation, 437, 1284
Antique—Antiques, 31, 32
Antiquity, 248
Antony, Mark, 195
Apartment—Apartments, 400, 791
Aphasia, 1377
Apology—Apologies, 48, 113, 625, 765, 1020, 1130, 1179
Appearance, 128
Appeasement, 1047
Appendectomy, 1102
Appendicitis, 350, 1377
Appendix, 350, 353
Applause, 584, 1045

Apple—Apples, 135, 503, 1340, 1480, 1576
Apple tree—Apple trees, 503
Application, Job, 463, 1565
Appointment cancellation, 337
Appreciation—33-35, 424, 533, 638, 1336
Archaeologist — Archaeologists, 712
Archimede's principle, 1439
Architect—Architects, 1351
Architecture, 1351
Arcola, Illinois, 947
Argument—Arguments, 42, 323, 711, 1079
Aristocracy, 183
Arithmetic, 36-43, 512, 565, 853, 1441, 1444, 1458
Armed forces, 44-79, 745, 1057, 1177, 1225, 1289, 1476, 1477
Armed robbery, 739
Army. See Armed forces
Army Camp—Army Camps, 55
Army chaplain—Army chaplains, 1476
Army discharge, 54
Army officer—Army officers, 715
Army rank, 61
Arrest—Arresting, 537, 788, 1419, 1477
Art, 80-93
Art buyer—Art buyers, 1348
Art collector—Art collectors, 92
Art critic—Art critics, 80
Arteriosclerosis, 1377
Art gallery—Art galleries, 86
Art, Graphic, 1001
Arthritis, 22
Artist—Artists, 85, 88-90, 553, 1001, 1405
Artist, Commercial, 1541
Artist, Sidewalk, 88
Art, Modern, 84, 91
Ash—Ashes, 721, 1331
Ash tray—Ash trays, 622, 1194
Assault—Assaults, 275, 769
Assistance, 438, 704
Assumption, 995
Astigmatism, 1377
Asylum, Lunatic, 525
Athens, Greece, 1537
Athlete—Athletes, 1388
Atlanta, Georgia, 1201
Atlantic Ocean, 1500
Atomic scientist—Atomic scientists, 916
Atomizer—Atomizers, 671
Attack—Attacks, 1005
Attendance, 1042
Attendance record, 464, 1437
Attendance, School, 1437
Attentiveness, 210
Audience, 94-96, 162, 210, 901, 1035, 1044, 1143, 1336
Austen, Jane, 497
Author—Authors, 102, 542, 717, 1151, 1190
Authorship, 97-102, 483, 717
Autograph—Autographs, 584
Automation, 1271
Automobile—Automobiles, 103-105, 244, 368, 397, 629, 642, 677, 733, 958, 1092, 1187, 1303
Automobile accident—Automobile accidents, 1297, 1527
Automobile, Foreign, 104, 105
Automobile theft, 1200
Automobile, Used, 384
Autopsy, 355
Average, 267
Average man, 1553
A.W.O.L., 56, 78

B

Baby—Babies, 1533
Baby carriage—Baby carriages, 994
Baby shoes, 1335
Bachelor—Bachelors, 436, 1258, 1290

Bachelorhood, 106-108, 516
Backgammon, 774
Back-seat driving, 642, 681
Backwoodsman — Backwoodsmen, 908
Backyard—Backyards, 41
"Bad news," 610
Baggage, 1539
Bagpipe—Bagpipes, 1130, 1356
Bailey, Pearl, 1084
Bait, 530, 1467
Bait Sales, 247
Baker—Bakers, 1056, 1507
Baldness, 109-111, 907, 1415
Balloon—Balloons, 1447
Ball park—Ball parks, 894
Ballroom—Ballrooms, 1022
Baltimore, Maryland, 1161, 1329
Balzac, Honore, 1134
Bandit—Bandits, 775
Bandleader—Bandleaders, 1071
Bandmaster — Bandmasters, 1352
Band, Orchestral, 1352
Bank—Banks—Banking, 112-119, 172, 274, 406, 479, 660, 711, 1312, 1329
Bank equipment, 1329
Banker—Bankers, 112, 115, 332, 406, 1274, 1552
Bank loan—Bank loans, 114
Bank robbery—Bank robberies, 775
Bankruptcy, 169, 1248, 1259, 1285
Bankruptcy Court, 292
Bank teller—Bank tellers, 259
Banquet—Banquets, 30
Baptism, 945
Baptist, 1044
Bar—Bars, 382, 383, 394, 398
Barber—Barber shop, 120-123, 907, 1333
Bargain—Bargains, 247, 269, 500
Bargain sale—Bargain sales, 1030
Baritone—Baritones, 901
Bar Mitzvah, 1403
Barn—Barns, 757
Barometer—Barometers, 390
Barrie, Sir James, 102
Barrister—Barristers, 771
Barroom—Barrooms, 399
Barrymore, John, 797, 1343
Bartender—Bartenders, 298, 364 370, 383, 400, 1129, 1486
Baseball, 280, 450, 894, 897, 1022, 1383, 1387, 1452, 1461
Baseball diamond, 980
Baseball fan—Baseball fans, 1387
Baseball player—Baseball players, 493
Bathing, 80
Bathing suit—Bathing suits, 236, 1581
Bath mat—Bath mats, 622
Bathroom—Bathrooms, 1194
Baton—Batons, 1352
Batting practice, 897
Battlefield—Battlefields, 1540
Bayonet drill, 77
Beach—Beaches, 837, 1069, 1495
Beach inspector—Beach inspectors, 1581
Bear (Stock market), 1399
Beauty, 124-129, 255, 391, 459, 1245
Beauty parlor—Beauty parlors, 129
Bedbug—Bedbugs, 625
Bee—Bees, 195, 272, 1389
Beecher, Henry Ward, 895, 1167, 1497
Beef, 195
Beef-packer — Beef-packers, 1466
Beafsteak, 982
Beekeeper—Beekeepers, 272
Beer, 374, 1046, 1129
Beethoven, Ludwig van, 1132
Beggar — Beggars — Begging, 130-133, 164, 614, 698

Behavior, 39, 134-140, 326, 459, 508, 737, 912, 1230, 1259, 1437
Belgium, 1504
Belief, 491, 1473
Belmont Park, 396
Beneficiary, Insurance, 741
Bequest—Bequests, 9
Berdan, John, 410
Bernard, Clinton, E., 1350
Bernhardt, Sarah, 956
Berth, Lower, 485
Berth, Upper, 485
Bet—Betting, 604-606, 698
Bet, Mental, 606
Better half, 679
Betting system, 615
Beverage, 385
Bible, The, 141-143
Bicarbonate of soda, 1527
Bicycle—Bicycles, 729, 1052, 1517
Bigamy, 788
Bigotry, 1372
Biltmore Hotel, 766
Biographer—Biographers, 1428
Biography—Biographies, 142
Biology, 1524
Bird—Birds, 302, 759
Birdshot, 1160
Bird, Stuffed, 753
Birthday—Birthdays, 617, 630, 896, 1460
Birthday gift—Birthday gifts, 966, 1183
Birthday party—Birthday parties, 547, 906, 1081, 1412
Biscuit—Biscuits, 144
Bishop—Bishops, 551, 754, 1166
Bishop, Methodist, 228
Bistro, 698
Blackball, 1505
Blackboard—Blackboards, 267
Black clothes, 848
Black eye, 190, 1468
Blackguard—Blackguards, 1498
Black, Hugh, 827
Black sheep, 987
Blame, 141-148, 356, 648, 896, 900, 1029, 1254
Blanket—Blankets, 57
Blanket, Wet, 315
Blessing—Blessings, 884, 1051
Blindness, 100, 550
Blizzard—Blizzards, 539
Blockade, Police, 1189
Blonde—Blondes, 319, 922, 1418, 1554
Blood, 183, 1096
Blue blood, 183
Bluff—Bluffing, 1260
Boarding school, Girls', 462
Board of Education, 1435
Boat—Boats, 1021, 1053
Boat race—Boat races, 264
Bodice, 1578
Body—Bodies, 408
Boer War, The, 537
Bologna sandwich—Bologna sandwiches, 388
Bomb—Bombs—Bombing, 1067
Bone—Bones, 161
Book—Books, 102, 149, 150, 821, 834, 969
Bookkeeper—Bookkeepers, 172, 481
Bookkeeping, 1411
Bookstore—Bookstores, 149
Book title—Book titles, 102
Bootlegging, 1363
Boots, 63
Boredom, 151-153, 964, 1140
Borge, Victor, 94
Borrowing, 112, 114, 130, 154, 157, 293, 1409
Boss. See also Employer—Employee, 413, 416, 421, 662, 877
Boston College, 1390
Boston, Massachusetts, 196, 1050, 1545
Boswell, James, 872
Bottle—Bottles, 43
Bottle, Medicine, 639
Bourget, Paul, 28

Bowl, Goldfish, 1110
Bowling, 464, 684, 1382
Bowling team—Bowling teams, 446
Boxing, 1021, 1180, 1459
Box office, Theatre, 1028, 1192
Boy—Girl, 123
Boy Scouts, 140
Boys' school—Boys' schools, 1352
Bracelet, Diamond, 1554
Brain—Brains, 403
Brake, Emergency, 749, 1077
Brandy, 539, 697
Bravery, 292, 983
Breach of promise, 1274
Bread, 1056, 1507
Bread and water, 1208
Bread, Raisin, 388
Breakage, 978
Breakfast, 472, 487, 766, 829, 876
Breakfast tray, 695
Brevity, 414, 761
Brick—Bricks, 795
Brickmaker — Brickmakers, 1058
Bric-a-brac, 557, 587
Bridal suite, 601
Bride—Brides, 57, 117, 144, 256, 1307
Bride—Groom, 158-160, 600, 601, 603, 837, 954
Bridegroom—Bridegrooms, 57, 295, 764, 870, 1094
Bridesmaid—Bridesmaids, 191
Bridge. See also Card-playing, 176, 180, 184
Bridge—Bridges, 1373
Bridge abutment—Bridge abutments, 1493
Bridge builder—Bridge builders, 1493
Bridge expert. See also Card-playing, 181
Bridge, Pontoon, 143
Bridge, Railroad, 399
Briggs, Walter, 450
Brilliance, 675
British, 250, 373, 1316
Brittany, 1327
Broadcast, Radio, 495
Broad-mindedness, 675
Brochure—Brochures, 1529
Broker, Marriage, 93
Broker, Stock, 1399
Brooklyn Bridge, 396
Brooklyn, New York, 895
Brother—Brothers, 1449, 1462
Brotherhood, 161-164, 1451
Brotherly love, 1451
Brush—Brushes, 1133
Brussels, Belgium, 1504
Brynner, Yul, 110
Buckingham Palace, 1029
Budapest, Hungary, 244
Budget—Budgets, 449, 1298, 1544
Budget, Family, 658
Building—Buildings, 1169
Building material, 557
Bulb, Electric light, 92
Bull—Bulls, 1362
Bulletin board—Bulletin boards, 1330
Bullet wound—Bullet wounds, 867
Bull fight—Bull fights, 1466
Bull's eye, 74
Bull (Stock market), 1399
Bum—Bums, 1022
Bungalow—Bungalows, 950
Bureau of Printing and Engraving, 260
Burgesses, House of, 1046
Burglar—Burglars, 84, 274, 739, 1501
Burglar alarms—Burglar alarms, 1028
Burglary—Burglaries, 167
Burgomaster — Burgomasters, 1504
Burial, 688, 765, 1158
Burke, Edmund, 1162
Bus fare, 140

Business, 165-174, 763, 962, 1344, 1407
Business competition, 1294
Business letter—Business letters, 1330
Businessman — Businessmen, 112, 114, 721, 763, 1108, 1406
Business troubles, 672
Bus, Motor, 475
Butchering, 1466
Butcher shop—Butcher shops, 246
Butler, Nicholas Murray, 1002
Butter, 1507
Button—Buttons, 224, 931
Buyer, Dress, 991

C

Cab—Cabs, 1134
Cabbage, 890
Cabinet officer—Cabinet officers, 961
Caddie—Caddies, 565, 1354
Cadillac automobile, 30, 38, 1477, 1534
Caesar, Julius, 254
Caesar, Sid, 422
Cajun—Cajuns, 1431
Cake—Cakes, 158, 975
Cake, Sponge, 130
Calamity—Calamities, 862, 894
Calmness, 874
Cambridge University, 709
Camden, New Jersey, 1387
Camera—Cameras, 236, 523, 603, 699, 915
Camouflage, 1051
Camp meeting—Camp meetings, 1163
Canada—Canadian, 12
Cancellation — Cancellations, 337, 378
Candidate, Political, 831, 893, 1037
Candy, 844, 1198
Cannonball, Human, 418
Canon—Canons, 511
Can opener—Can openers, 84, 789
Canvas, 1010
Capacity, 902
Cap and gown, 186
Capital—Capitalists, 245
Capitalist Hell, 242
Capital punishment, 95, 813, 1165
Capital, State, 1050
Capital stock, 1400
Capitulation, 857
Captain, Army, 70
Captain, Ship, 62, 73, 1021, 1550
Carbon copy—Carbon copies, 1397
Card index—Card indexes, 688
Carding mill—Carding mills, 591
Card-playing, 175-184, 613, 700, 1062, 1165, 1378
Card tricks, 496
Career—Careers, 185, 186, 1022
Carefulness, 457, 460
Carfare, 140
Carnegie, Andrew, 220, 457, 1479
Carnegie Hall, 1404
Carpenter—Carpenters, 960, 1570
Carpenter, George A., 1338
Carpet—Carpeting, 1331
Carriage, Baby, 994
Cartoonist—Cartoonists, 1157
Caruso, Enrico, 997, 1089
Carver, George Washington, 902
Casals, Pablo, 937
Casanova, 701
Cashier—Cashiers, 1028
Cashier, Movie, 744
Cash register—Cash registers, 25
Cassidy, Claudia, 997

Castle—Castles, 795
Cat—Cats, 146, 195, 794, 818, 1199, 1556
Catalogue—Catalogues, 1374
Catholic—Catholics, 163, 478, 1390
Cat ranch—Cat ranches, 1205
Catskin—Catskins, 1205
Cattle buyer—Cattle buyers, 747
Cause and effect, 187-195, 363
Cause, Worthy, 1022
Caution, 244, 1247
Cavalleria Rusticana, 1107
Caveat emptor, 10
Cavern—Caverns, 304
Ceiling—Ceilings, 1007
Celler—Emanuel, 1159
Cello—Cellos, 937
Cemetery—Cemeteries, 688
Censure—Censuring, 872
Centenarian — Centenarians, 1365
Certainty—Certainties, 1441
Chairman—Chairmen, 750, 832 1496
Chairman, Program, 1154
Challenger—Challenges, 1527
Chamber of Deputies, French, 845
Champaign, Illinois, 947
Championship, World, 493
Chandler, Governor A. B. (Happy), 1525
Change—Changing, 646
Chaplain, Army, 1476
Character, 196, 197
Character defamation, 196
Charity, 550, 554, 583, 1451
Charity dance—Charity dances, 1022
Charity dinner—Charity dinners, 1089
Charity drive—Charity drives, 30
Chastisement, 1198, 1443, 1448
Chaucer, Geoffrey, 826
Chauffeur—Chauffeurs, 434, 460
Cheat—Cheating, 257, 1438
Checking account, Joint, 479
Check, Personal, 113
Checkup, Physical, 343
Cheese, 388
Chef—Chefs, 1210
Chemistry, 4
Cherry—Cherries, 33, 1202
Chesterton, G. K., 217
Chevrolet automobile, 1534
Chevron—Chevrons, 61, 69
Chicago, Illinois, 337, 392, 830, 1024
Chicago Tribune, The, 381
Chicago, University of, 194
Chicken—Chickens, 499, 801, 1379, 1458
Chicken bone—Chicken bones, 1090
Chicken liver—Chicken livers, 1019
Chicken salad, 387
Child—Children, 533, 740, 794, 1435, 1468, 1471, 1556
Child adoption, 492
Childbirth, 198-202, 282, 727
Child guidance, 508
Child psychology, 1133
Chimney—Chimneys, 1056, 1331
China, 278, 363, 1400
Chinatown, 363
Chinaware, 557; 978
Chinese, 1015, 1228, 1403, 1528
Chiropodist—Chiropodists, 185
Choice, 680, 701, 954
Choice, Second, 249
Choir, Church, 214
Chopin, Frederic Francois, 941
Choral society, 936
Chorus girl—Chorus girls, 1274
Christening, 473
Christian — Christians — Christianity, 213, 1015, 1176, 1215
Christian Science Church, 1179

Christian service, 1065
Christmas, 203-206, 212, 545, 680, 830
Christmas card—Christmas cards, 1312
Christmas gift—Christmas gifts, 549, 1244
Church—Churches, 163, 208, 218, 225, 256, 1070, 1178, 1181, 1204, 1546
Church attendance, 163, 207-223, 552, 598, 1052, 1063, 1175, 1177
Church collections, 224, 225
Churchill, Winston, 95, 537, 1143
Church membership, 1167
Church social—Church socials, 787
Cider, 1046
Cigar—Cigars, 204, 420, 698, 1137
Cigarette—Cigarettes, 592, 694, 1364
Cigarette lighter — Cigarette lighters, 1384
Cincinnati, Ohio, 823, 1315, 1501
Circle—Circles, 591
Circumspection, 244
Circus, 1454
Circus manager—Circus managers, 418
City council, 1043
City editor—City editors, 764
City Hall, 1417
Civic duty, 1046
Civilian life, 50
Civil War, U.S., 715, 949, 1161, 1540
Classifications, 463
Classmate—Classmates, 1411
Class reunion—Class reunions, 542, 1218, 1411
Cleanliness, 59, 108, 120, 131, 141, 1209
Clemenceau, Georges, 1017, 1467
Clemens, Samuel L. See Mark Twain
Cleopatra, 195
Clergyman—Clergymen, 137, 223, 1424, 1493, 1497
Clerk—Clerks, 1321
Clerk, Hotel, 321
Cleveland, Ohio, 689, 830, 1078, 1543
Cleverness, 638, 664
Clock—Clocks, 993
Clock, Alarm, 1407
Clock-watching, 416, 430, 1407
Clothes—Clothing, 297, 449, 692
Clothing business, 1576
Clover, 195
Club car—Club cars, 859
Club house—Club houses, 928
Club membership, 178, 226-228, 1505
Club woman—Club women, 1022
Coach, Baseball, 897
Coach, Football, 1224, 1380
Coal, 242
Coal dealer—Coal dealers, 242
Coat—Coats, 1302
Coat, Drop-dead, 758
Coat, Fur, 636
Coca Cola, 385, 947
Cocker spaniel—Cocker spaniels, 930
Cocktail—Cocktails, 255
Cocktail lounge—Cocktail lounges, 700, 1485
Cocktail, Martini, 33, 524
Cocktail party—Cocktail parties, 710
Codfish, 42
Cod-liver oil, 986
Co-ed—Co-eds, 15
Coercion, 263
Coffee, 550, 1418
Coffee break, 416, 1346, 1429
Coin—Coins, 224, 259, 898, 1134, 1385, 1445, 1483
Coincidence, 1067

Coin-tossing, 1348
Cold shoulder, 678
Coleslaw, 388
Collaboration, 1206
Collar—Collars, 546
Colleague—Colleagues, 1214, 1216
Collection—Collections, 586, 1024
Collection, Church, 220
Collection, Debt, 301
Collection letter—Collection letters, 296, 1031, 1196
Collection plate — Collection plates, 1546
College—Colleges, 229-236, 765, 806, 900, 1381, 1390, 1407
College, Business, 1411
College education, 406
College graduate—College graduates, 231
College president—College presidents, 1218
College, Religious, 754
Collision, Automobile, 900
Colonel—Colonels, 63, 68, 71, 1148
Color—Colors, 701, 1526
Color film, 823
Colt—Colts, 1055
Columbia University, 150
Columbus, Christopher, 1038
Columnist, Newspaper, 280, 1330
Comfort, 407
Comedian—Comedians, 922, 955, 1337
Commanding officer—Commanding officers, 745
Commandments, Ten, 1053
Commencement address, 809
Commentator — Commentators, 873
Commercial artist — Commercial artists, 1541
Commission — Commissions, 724
Committee—Committees, 409, 748, 1348
Common cold—Common colds, 361, 526
Common origin, 161
Common sense, 237
Communism, 238-245
Communist—Communists, 25, 845
Communist Hell, 242
Commuter, Railroad, 1281
Commuter train—Commuter trains, 743
Como, Perry, 1084
Compensation, 1228
Compensation, Workmen's, 461
Competition, 246-248, 643, 1406
Competitor—Competitors, 541
Complaint—Complaints, 50, 144, 280, 333, 957, 1308, 1320
Complexion, Facial, 1292
Compliment — Compliments —Complimentary, 53, 311, 365, 459, 664, 872
Composer, Music, 11, 92
Composition, English, 410
Compromise — Compromises, 249-251
Comptroller — Comptrollers, 686, 720
Compulsion, 382
Compulsion, Nervous, 1129, 1131
Computing machine—Computing machines, 1271
Comrade Reguspatoff, 752
Conceit, 252-256, 279, 311, 1336
Concert—Concerts, 25, 696
Concerted action, 265
Concert hall—Concert halls, 584
Concert, Music, 746, 939, 940
Concert, Piano, 1018

Concert tour—Concert tours, 1095
Conclusion—Conclusions, 46
Condemnation, 273
Conductor, Musical, 277, 939
Conductor, Orchestra, 901, 1492
Conductor, Pullman, 485
Conductor, Railroad, 830, 947, 1186
Conductor, Street car, 16
Confederacy, 1540
Conference—Conferences, 692
Confession, 96, 98, 1025, 1175
Confidence, 257-260, 482, 672, 730, 1003, 1351
Confidence, Lack of, 260
Confinement, 398
Confirmation, 699
Confiscation, 1207
Confusion, 329, 810, 1560
Congratulation — Congratulations, 516
Congregation — Congregations, 210
Congregationalist, 1044
Congressional Record, 1020
Congressman, U.S., 581, 724, 1159
Congress, U.S., 751, 1020, 1442
Conscience, 1349
Conscription, 51, 56, 63, 79
Considerateness, 816
Consignment — Consignments, 1316
Constable—Constables, 703
Constellation — Constellations, 1360
Constitutional Convention, 64
Construction gang—Construction gangs, 458
Construction job—Construction jobs, 517
Consultation — Consultations, 1355
Consultation, Medical, 355
Contempt of court, 808
Contentment, 261
Contest, Guessing, 1206
Continuity, 279
Contractor—Contractors, 302
Contribution, Charitable, 553, 554, 556, 722
Conundrum—Conundrums, 43, 728
Convent—Convents, 593
Convention — Conventions, 209, 622, 916
Convention, Constitutional, 64
Convention delegate — Convention delegates, 209
Conversation — Conversations, 576
Convertibility, 1578
Convict—Convicts, 703
Cook book—Cook books, 108, 158
Cook, Captain James, 1125
Cook—Cooks—Cooking, 108, 262, 263, 378, 789, 1228, 1501, 1541, 1569
Cook County, Illinois, 465
Cookie jar—Cookie jars, 1586
Coolidge, Calvin, 696, 1135, 1219, 1409
Coolidge, Mrs. Calvin, 1387
Cooperation, 264-267, 429, 597
Coordination, Neuro-muscular, 1524
Co-pilot, Airplane, 160
Copy—Copies, 579
Cork, 43
Corn, 502, 1178
Corporal—Corporals, 61, 72, 360
Corpulence, 972
Corsage, Flower, 602, 1324
Cost of living, 580
Cough—Coughing, 359
Counsellor, Investment, 1091
Counterfeit money, 1385
County fair—County fairs, 500
Courage, 292, 1482
Court calendar, 465
Court call, 465

Court, Contempt of, 806
Courtier—Courtiers, 774
Court martial, 71, 78
Courtroom—Courtrooms, 284
Courtship, 1259, 1281, 1291
Cover-up, 23
Covetousness, 135
Cow—Cows, 639, 747
Cowardice, 655
Cracker—Crackers, 1019
Cracker barrel philosopher, 403
Crave—Craving, 356
Crawl—Crawling, 906
Creativity, 11
Credit, 114, 268-270
Creditor—Creditors, 172, 585
Creditor, Preferred, 300
Credit sales. See Installment purchase — Installment purchases
Cremation, 721
Crime, 189, 1025, 1208, 1419
Crime—Punishment, 271-275, 402, 773, 781, 1027, 1164, 1363, 1521
Cripple—Cripples, 312
Critic—Critics, 1206
Critic, Art, 80
Critic, Drama, 1336
Criticism, 276-281, 410, 1206, 1276, 1565
Crook—Crooks, 1043
Crop—Crops, 767
Cross examination, 85, 1419
Crowbar—Crowbars, 225
Crowd—Crowds, 95
Crowd, Dispersal of, 1024
Crown—Crowns, 1227
Cruise—Cruising, 1535
Cry—Crying, 191
Crystal, Smoked, 92
Cub reporter—Cub reporters, 764
Cure—Cures, 1083
Curiosity, 282-284
Currency, 259, 260, 1134
Curriculum, 406
Curtailment, 762
Curve—Curves, 1130
Custom—Customs, 278, 805
Customer — Customers, 168, 1317
Customs inspector — Customs inspectors, 1207, 1419
Cyanide of potassium, 1527
Cynicism, 1499

D

Dale, Dr. Ernest, 759
Dam—Dams, 1080
Damage, Property, 900
Damages, 312
Dance—Dancing, 285-290, 776, 934, 1276
Danger, 68, 738, 1076
Danish, 996
Darkness, 787, 1198
Dating, 856, 958, 1239
Daughter—Daughters, 12
Deacon—Deacons, 616, 1565
Deadbeat, 1486
Deaf and dumb, 1548
Deafness, 655, 784, 1472
Death, 65, 139, 309, 379, 745, 763, 1075
Death cell, 540
Debate—Debates, 845
Debating society, 412
Debt—Debts, 658, 808, 1031
Debt collection, 301
Debtor—Creditor, 291-301, 623, 1031, 1196, 1300
Debut, 1352
Deception, 321, 600, 1267
Decision—Decisions, 280, 812, 1348
Declaration, Customs, 1207
Declaration of Independence, 1494
Decoration—Decorations, 1171
Decoration, Army, 68
Dedication, 1008
Dedicatory speech, 777
Deductions, Salary, 1299

Deep-sea diver — Deep-sea divers, 374
Deer, 904
Defamation of character, 196
Defeat—Defeats, 313, 1011
Defense, 1005
Defense, Patriotic, 51
Defensive, 1381
Deference, 250, 302, 303
Deficit—Deficits, 553, 1061
Degree, Bachelor's, 230
Delay, 668
Delegate, Convention, 209, 669
Delinquency, Juvenile, 777, 1587
Delivery service, 729
Delusion—Delusions, 1138
Demagogue — Demagogues, 1046
Democratic, 1042
Democratic party, 1041
Demonstration — Demonstrations, 1315, 1331
Dempsey, Jack, 1180
Denomination, Church, 1178
Dentist—Dentistry, 304, 305, 1106
Deodorant—Deodorants, 187
Department head—Department heads, 1348
Department store—Department stores, 301, 1023, 1124
Dependability, 464
Depew, Chauncey, 809, 840
Deportment. See also behavior, 459
Deprecation, 276
Deputies, Chamber of, 845
Dermatitis, 1377
Dermatologist — Dermatologists, 887
Description—Descriptions, 704
Desert—Deserts, 1322
Desertion, 378, 684, 932
Designer, Aircraft, 753
Designer—Designers, 1348
Desistance, 35
Des Moines, Iowa, 692
Despondency, 733
Destination — Destinations, 1038
Detail—Details, 1311
Detective, House, 723, 892
Determination, 306, 307, 446
Detroit Lions football team, 861
Detroit, Michigan, 618, 1078
Detroit (Michigan) Tigers, 450
Devil—Devils, 137, 235, 242, 366, 379, 1009, 1015, 1056, 1294
Dewey, Admiral George, 76
Diagnosis, 308-310, 332, 355, 373
Diamond — Diamonds, 783, 1554
Diaper—Diapers, 980
Dictionary—Dictionaries, 803, 1374, 1375, 1478
Diet, 12, 970, 973
Dieting, 963
Difference — Differences, 287, 420, 811, 845, 912
Digression, 476
Dilemma—Dilemmas, 311-313
Dilution, 375
Dime—Dimes, 259, 1410
Dining room—Dining rooms, 734
Dinner—Dinners, 685
Dinner Formal, 151
Dinner party—Dinner parties, 150, 152, 1344, 1402
Dinner set, 978
Diogenes, 161
Dionne quintuplets, 12
Diploma—Diplomas, 186
Diplomacy, 1047, 1428
Diplomat — Diplomats, 883, 1320, 1425
Direction — Directions, 1038, 1436
Dirtiness, 120
Disadvantage — Disadvantages, 1170
Disappearance, 187

Disappointment, 191, 222, 314, 493, 494, 557
Disarmament, 1454
Disbelief, 519, 700
Discharge, Army, 54
Discharge, Employment, 417, 419, 422, 431, 433, 435
Discipline, 1012
Disc jockey — Disc jockeys, 1206
Discomfort, 346
Discord, 935
Discouragement, 45, 315, 316, 494, 1282
Discretion, 1482
Disease—Diseases, 345, 1391
Disgrace, 60
Dish—Dishes, 934
Dishonesty, 482, 1043
Dishwashing, 493, 517, 1138
Displeasure, 680
Dispute—Disputes, 763
Disraeli, Benjamin, 957
Dissenting opinion—Dissenting opinions, 1563
Distance, 830
Distant relative—Distant relatives, 1173
Distinguished Service Cross, 68
Distortion, 579
District attorney, 1363
Diver, Deep-sea, 374
"Divine Comedy," 150
Divorce, 85, 317-322, 486, 670, 878, 1086, 1259, 1561
Doctor—Doctors, 309, 312, 386, 740, 748, 763, 1101, 1524
Doctor—Patient, 249, 323-366, 381, 390, 404, 525, 655, 673, 736, 807, 867, 888, 972, 1085, 1087, 1088, 1127, 1130, 1355, 1391
Dog—Dogs, 33, 148, 251, 279, 309, 470, 779, 794, 820, 930, 952, 982, 1115, 1199, 1201, 1312, 1345, 1506, 1556
Doghouse—Doghouses, 1201
Dog, St. Bernard, 539
Dog tail—Dog tails, 930
Dog team—Dog teams, 788
Do-it-yourself, 358, 367, 368
Doll—Dolls, 206, 1421
Dollar, Silver, 1500
Domestic trouble, 929
Donation — Donations, 553, 1022
Donkey—Donkeys, 1451, 1489
Doorbell—Doorbells, 593, 1197
Doorman—Doormen, 392
Double bed—Double beds, 602
Double-cross, 811
Doubt, 143, 671
D-O-U-G-H, 740, 1084
Dowager—Dowagers, 1100
Down-payment, 732
Dowry, 295
Draft board, 63
Draftee—Draftees, 56, 79
Draft, Military, 51, 63, 79
Drama critic—Drama critics, 1336
Drawing, 1471
Dream—Dreams, 723, 1418
Dress buyer—Dress buyers, 991
Dressing room — Dressing rooms, 917
Drinking, 125, 362, 369-383, 581, 697, 698, 800, 900, 941, 1021, 1053, 1062, 1083, 1288, 1365
Driver's license, 460, 1416
Droke, Maxwell, 153
Drop-dead coat, 758
Dropsy, 373
Drudgery, 998
Druggist—Drug store, 105, 128, 384-388, 639, 729, 844
Drum—Drums, 102
Drunken driving, 800, 1520
Drunkenness, 23, 155, 189, 242, 298, 369-383, 389-400, 773, 1491, 1524, 1531, 1550, 1565

Dual control, 1244
Dubinsky, David, 871
Dublin, Ireland, 96
Duck—Ducks, 627
Duel—Duels—Duelling, 1353, 1431
Dues, Membership, 227, 1219
Dummy—Dummies, 77
Duplicate—Duplication, 579
Durante, Jimmy, 1073
Dust to dust, 141
Dutchman—Dutchmen, 1433
Duties, Administrative, 153
Duty, Customs, 1207
Dynamite, 589

E

Eagles, Fraternal Order of, 226
Ear—Ears, 1126, 1390, 1472
Earnhart, Richard, 1375
Earning—Earnings, 449, 846
Earpiece, Telephone, 243
Earth, 751, 763
Ease, 407
East Burlap Business College, 1411
Easter Sunday, 212, 218
Eating, 262, 308
Economics, 660, 1463
Economy-minded, 1283
Eden, Garden of, 1480
Edison, Thomas A., 151, 173, 490, 755
Editor—Editors, 98, 99, 433, 556, 760, 762, 764, 765, 767, 1039, 1422
Education, 401-406, 1203
Educational toy, 914
Educator—Educators, 759
Efficiency, 455
Effort, 407-410
Egg—Eggs, 302, 766, 801, 1019, 1212, 1319
Egg, Hard-boiled, 2
Egyptian—Egyptians, 143
Einstein, Albert, 1360
Einstein, Mrs. Albert, 1314
Eisenhower, Dwight D., 819
Elastic, 965
Elbow—Elbows, 22
Election, Doctrine of, 137
Election—Elections, 137, 751, 831, 1361
Election victory, 1043
Electrical lighting, 173
Electric blanket — Electric blankets, 1244
Electric chair, 540
Electrician—Electricians, 1068
Electricity, 491, 1331
Electric light bill — Electric light bills, 661, 1096
Electric light bulb—Electric light bulbs, 92, 173
Electric razor—Electric razors, 247
Electric socket — Electric sockets, 1331
Electric wire—Electric wires, 1068
Electronic brain, 988
Elephant—Elephants, 1328
Elevator—Elevators, 510, 1023, 1287
Elimination, Process of, 1068
Elizabeth I, Queen, 827
Elizabeth II, Queen, 246
Elks, Benevolent Protective Order of, 226
Embarrassment, 23, 411, 412, 707, 1129
Emergency—Emergencies, 745, 1077, 1188
Emergency brake, 749, 1077
Emerson, Ralph Waldo, 1544
Eminence, 96
Emotional disturbance, 1012
Empire State Building, 510, 1499
Employer—Employee, 9, 17, 168, 413-460, 461-465, 611, 960, 1228, 1300, 1317, 1346, 1372, 1426, 1429, 1552, 1555, 1559, 1568

Employment, 413-460, 461-465
Employment office — Employment offices, 463
Encore—Encores, 942
Encouragement, 1282
Encyclopedia, 1307
Endorsement of note, 1552
Enemy—Enemies, 535
Engagement — Engagements, 516
Engagement ring, 1265
Engineer—Engineers, 143, 235, 1151
Engineer, Railroad, 1047, 1493, 1515
England—English, 176, 957, 1163, 1207, 1351, 1424
England, King of, 1225
England, Queen of, 690
English Channel, 1470
English composition—English compositions, 410, 1461
English language, 1363
Englishman—Englishmen, 177, 178, 248, 369, 497, 709, 995, 1009, 1011, 1072, 1389, 1548
Enjoyment, 1349
Enlargement, 523
Enlistment, Army, 51
Enlistment, Navy, 59
Entertainment, 413, 449, 1140
Enthusiasm, 1018
Entrapment, 184, 692, 900, 1233
Envy, 1272
Episcopal Church, 1061
Episcopalian — Episcopalians, 511, 1044
Epstein, Jacob, 89
Equality, 426
Equality of sexes, 845
Error—Errors, 1383
Error, Typographical, 48
Escape, 404, 868, 1040, 1556
Escapee, 703
Estimate—Estimates, 267, 1423
Eternity, 832, 1493
Etiquette, 466-469, 714
Eulogy—Eulogies, 1181, 1217
Europe, 184, 1410, 1538
Evacuation, 456
Eve, 13, 1064
Evening gown — Evening gowns, 507
Eviction notice, 793
Evidence, 768
Exaggeration, 519, 627
Examination, College, 234, 1066, 1074
Examination — Examinations, 748, 1373
Examination paper, 1050
Examination, Physical, 332, 359, 362
Examination question—Examination questions, 1463
Example—Examples, 781
Exasperation, 562
Excellence, 997
Excessiveness, 1095, 1104
Exchange, 329, 470, 471
Excitement, 874
Excuse—Excuses, 399, 472-478, 1081
Execution — Executions, 95, 540
Executioner — Executioners, 1583
Executive — Executives, 179, 1300, 1326, 1395
Exercise, Physical, 354, 971, 972
Exorbitance, 1104
Expectations, 696
Expense account—Expense accounts, 382-444, 829
Expense—Expenses, 1298
Expenses, Travel, 1544
Expensive — Expensiveness, 104, 175, 308, 1118, 1474
Experience, 330, 453, 479-483, 1134, 1345
Experiment—Experiments, 376
Experimentation, 324
Expert—Experts, 580

Explanation, 399, 484-488, 1456
Exploitation, 240, 245
Exploration — Explorations, 1125
Explorer—Explorers, 1585
Explorer, Cave, 304
Extemporaneous speech, 1159
Extra money, 729
Extravagance, 656, 1554, 1579
Eye, Black, 190
Eye—Eyes, 118, 548
Eye for an eye, 559
Eye, Glass, 118
Eye glasses, 338, 789, 1126
Eye to eye, 634

F

Face—Faces, 162, 548
Face-lifting, 1100
Facsimile—Facsimiles, 381
Failure, 306, 489, 490, 512, 1074, 1411
Failure, Business, 1285
Fainting spell—Fainting spells, 598
Fairbanks, Alaska, 788
Fairless, Benjamin F., 1469
Fairness, 426
Faith, 491, 492, 1056
Fame, 493-498, 542
Family, 12, 27, 312, 594, 1174, 1468
Family support, 863
Famine, 164
Faraday, Michael, 307
Farm—Farmer—Farming, 38, 72, 105, 171, 174, 235, 476, 499-505, 639, 693, 747, 778, 1058, 1076, 1203, 1220, 1258, 1413, 1469, 1507
Farmer, Gentleman, 499
Farm, Poultry, 1379
Fashion. See also Wearing apparel, 506, 507
Fatalism, 1347
Fatality, Automobile, 1527
Father—Fathers, 28, 1468
Father-in-law — Fathers-in-law, 486, 863, 867
Father — Son, 39, 110, 368, 400, 508-517, 709, 858, 1224, 1401, 1587
Fatigue clothes, 55
Fault—Faults, 896
Favor—Favors, 35, 1086
Fear, 330, 1435
Feeler—Feelers, 1044
Female—Females, 1110
Feminine, 104
Fence, Backyard, 1201
Fernandel, 1337
Fever, 390
Fiance, Fiances, 376, 386, 1283
Fiction, 717, 1168, 1190
Fiddle—Fiddles, 32
Field, Eugene, 97
Field mouse—Field mice, 195
Fields, Gracie, 787
Filing cabinet—Filing cabinets, 1346
Filling station—Filling stations, 1318
Finance company — Finance companies, 1300
Financial difficulty, 299
Financial embarrassment, 268
Financial statement, 112, 172
Financier—Financiers, 840
Fine—Fines, 808
Fingerprint—Fingerprints, 274
Fire, 221, 223, 315, 1230
Fire alarm—Fire alarms, 456
Firearms, 1504
Fire brigade—Fire brigades, 315, 456, 746
Fire department, 456
Fire drill—Fire drills, 456
Fire extinguisher—Fire extinguishers, 1310
Fire hose, 746
Fireman, Railroad, 1515
Fireplace — Fireplaces, 223, 1331
Firing range, 62
First-mate—First-mates, 1550

Fish—Fishing, 42, 518-531, 679, 885, 1234, 1467
Fisherman — Fishermen, 42, 519, 521
Fishmonger—Fishmongers, 885
Fish store—Fish stores, 8, 528
Fist—Fists, 989
Flag—Flags, 1433
Flash bulb—Flash bulbs, 1361
Flask—Flasks, 1069
Flattery, 495, 542, 1183
Flat tire—Flat tires, 1564
Fleet, American, 76
Fleming, Sir Alexander, 766
Flesh-testing, 747
Flint, Michigan, 94
Flirtation, 1418
Floor—Floors, 1007
Floorboard—Floorboards, 795
Florida, State of, 105, 1534
Flour, 130, 144
Flower—Flowers, 532, 533, 573, 602, 765, 1183, 1324
Flower bed—Flower beds, 525
Flunk—Flunking, 512
Flying, 392, 741, 754
Folly, 664
Fondness, 533
Food, 449, 698, 829, 1475
Fool—Fools, 1143, 1496, 1497
Football, 232, 713, 861, 1130, 1251, 1390
Football coach — Football coaches, 1224, 1380
Football tackle — Football tackles, 861
Football team—Football teams, 1385
Footsteps, 427
Ford automobile, 1534
Ford, Henry, 1408
Foreigner—Foreigners, 1567
Foreman—Foremen, 960
Forest Lawn Cemetery, 825
Forest ranger—Forest rangers, 1198
Forgery, 402
Forget—Forgetting, 44, 382, 488, 630, 1329
Forgetfulness, 896, 1329
Forgiveness, 136, 139, 534, 535, 1048
Form letter—Form letters, 625
Formula—Formulae, 281
Fortuneteller — Fortunetellers, 1327
'49'er, 840
Fountain pen—Fountain pens, 794, 1504
Foursome, Golf, 566
Fourth of July, 205
Fraction—Fractions, 679, 853
Fraction, Arithmetical, 923
France, 21, 1017, 1539
Frankenberg, Germany, 746
Frankfurter, Felix, 1563
Franklin, Benjamin, 1070
Frankness, 1378
Fraud, 1507
Freckles, 542
Freedom, 536, 537, 697
Freedom of speech, 537
Freighter—Freighters, 1013
French—Frenchman, 12, 28, 284, 697, 805, 883, 956, 1011, 1072, 1134, 1337, 1548
French Academy, 254
French Chamber of Deputies, 845
French language, 799
French poodle—French poodles, 1506
Freshman, College, 229
Friend—Friends, 154, 535, 646, 954
Friendship, 156, 538-542
Fright, 330, 331, 1013
Frog—Frogs, 2, 43
Frog-eater, 1072
Frozen foods, 1569
Fruit, 1058
Fruit seller, 1058
Frustration, 283
Fun, 657, 669

Fund-raising, 746
Funeral, 473, 765, 955, 1181, 1217
Funeral procession, 571
Fur—Furs, 1023
Fur coat—Fur coats, 636, 783, 1023, 1165, 1414
Furlough, 52, 745
Furnace—Furnaces, 242
Furnishings, House, 797
Furniture, 31
Furrier—Furriers, 758
Fusion, 640
Future, The, 445, 731, 962

G

Gabor, Eva, 1359
Gadget, Kitchen, 1411
Gaiety, 382
Gait, 1342
Galoshes, 1462
Gambling. See also Card-playing, 543, 544, 615, 698, 916, 1021
Game—Games, 981
Game warden—Game wardens, 522
Garage—Garages, 1517
Garbage, 1185
Garden—Gardens, 303, 499, 797, 1331, 1371
Gardener—Gardeners, 488
Garden of Eden, 1480
Garfield, James A., 405
Garibaldi, Giuseppe, 407
Gas, Illuminating, 1331
Gas Light Company, 1300
Gasoline, 10, 368, 1069, 1223, 1318, 1584
Gasoline station — Gasoline stations, 10
Gastritis, 1377
Geiger counter—Geiger counters, 1398
Gems, Precious, 989
General, Army, 72
General—Generals, 48
Generosity, 545, 675, 1296
Genius, 54, 998
Gentleman Farmer, 499
Gentleman—Gentlemen, 1403, 1498, 1505
Gentleness, 261
Geometry, 579
George IV, King, 1498
"George and the Dragon," 990
George, David Lloyd, 1157
Georgia, State of, 1220, 1285
Gesture—Gestures, 1156
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 1161
Ghost writer—Ghost writers, 367
Gift, Christmas, 204
Gift—Gifts, 164, 545-548, 1214
Gift, Wedding, 57
Girl—Girls, 18, 44, 348
Girls' school, 1191
Giving, 30, 225, 549-557, 1089
Glass eye, 118
Glove—Gloves, 1010
Goal—Goals, 1038
Goalkeeper—Goalkeepers, 1386
Goat—Goats, 1434
God, 13, 143, 163, 223, 303, 365, 405, 491, 492, 510, 535, 552, 555, 724, 895, 1016, 1042, 1054, 1424
God, Kingdom of, 137
God—Man, 898, 959
Godofsky, Leopold, 1018
"God Save the Queen," 246
Go-getter, 1306
Gold, 967
Golden Gates, 677
Golden Rule, 558, 559
Golden wedding, 691
Goldfish, 1110
Golf, 480, 560-573, 594, 928, 972, 988, 1062, 1114, 1350, 1354
Golf ball—Golf balls, 573
Golf club—Golf clubs, 567, 1062
Golf course—Golf courses, 569
Gondola—Gondalas, 531

"Gone With the Wind," 150
Gossip, 574-579, 663, 1142, 1334
Government, 278, 580-582
Government financing, 658
Government official—Government officials, 581
Government property, 62
Governor—Governors, 1525
Governor, Automobile, 1525
Gown, Strapless, 1571
"Goyim," 1015
Grace, 1051
Graduate, College, 1407
Graduating class, 809
Graduation exercises, 186, 1136
Graft, Political, 1032
Graham, Billy, 221
Grammar, 801, 1457
Grandchild — Grandchildren, 1054, 1174
Grand Coulee Dam, 1080
Granddaughter — Granddaughters, 478
Grandfather — Grandfathers, 15, 28, 261, 288, 1044, 1054, 1359, 1432
Grandmother — Grandmothers, 981, 1044, 1174, 1361
Grand opera, 901, 1107
Grandstand — Grandstands, 1383
Grand, General U.S., 715
Graphic art, 767, 1001
Gratitude, 583-586
Grave—Graves, 54, 688
Gravitation, Law of, 1340
Gravity, 1241
Grazing, 591
Great-aunt—Great-aunts, 1044
Great Britain, 195
Great-grandfather — Great-grand-fathers, 1044
Great-grandmother — Great-grandmothers, 1044
Greatness, 996, 997, 1366, 1452, 1533
Greeley, Horace, 556
Greenbacks, 1292
Greenberg, Hank, 450
Greenwich Village, 797
Greeting card—Greeting cards, 546
Gregg, Alan, 1216
Grocer—Grocers, 144, 749, 1202, 1315
Grocery store—Grocery stores, 1131, 1319
Grouch, 876, 1350, 1492
Growth, 49, 959, 1078
Guaranty, 1552
Guedalla, Philip, 412
Guess—Guessing, 310, 671, 728, 1423
Guessing contest—Guessing contests, 1206
Guest—Guests, 466
Guest star—Guest stars, 1084
Guidance, Child, 508
Guide—Guides, 795, 1539, 1540
Guide book—Guide books, 142
Guilt, 587, 588, 768, 1468
Guitry, Sacha, 756
Gun—Guns, 74, 133, 1028, 1085, 1154, 1471, 1519
Gunman—Gunmen, 1028
Gypsy, Gypsies, 1327

H

Haberdasher — Haberdashers, 948
Haberdashery, 1325
Habit—Habits, 589-593, 608, 646, 1083
Hackensack, New Jersey, 1006
Hades, 313
Haifa, Israel, 1403
Hair bob—Hair bobs, 127
Haircut, 121, 131, 469, 560, 1333
Hair-do, 110
Hair-dye, 126
Half-back, Football, 1224
Half dollar, 259

Half-fare, 16
Half-price, 1206
Hall of Fame, Baseball, 493
Ham, 388
Hamburger—Hamburgers, 1082
Hammer—Hammers, 142
Hampden, Walter, 707
Ham Sandwich—Ham sandwiches, 388
Hand—Hands, 913, 931
Handel, George Frederick, 940
Hand-holding, 175
Handicap—Handicaps, 594
Hand-shaking, 948
Handwriting, 1502
Hanging, 663, 813
Happiness, 417, 595, 596, 696, 843, 855, 872, 920, 1491
Hardship, 407
Hardware store—Hardware stores, 778
Hardwood, 269
Hard work, 490
Harmodius, 27
Harp, Golden, 732
Harris, Oren, 1020
Hartz, Alfred, 277
Harvard University, 809, 1293, 1541
Haste, 900, 1514
Hastings, Warren, 1162
Hat—Hats, 586, 598, 1204, 1302, 1562, 1579
Hate, 476
Havemeyer, Mrs. Horace, 87
Hayfield—Hayfields, 72
Hays, Brooks, 1020
Head—Heads, 1146
Health, 208, 308, 309, 332, 337, 654, 763, 1253
Health belt, Magnetic, 1357
Hearing, 348, 1126
Hearing aid, 835
Hearse, 84
Heart—Hearts, 407, 956
Heartburn, 1082
Heart failure, 36
Heathen—Heathens, 1015
Heaven, 136, 166, 220, 235, 366, 465, 557, 596, 708, 763, 866, 988, 1217, 1227, 1294, 1394
Heaven, Gates of, 529
Hecht, Ben, 1206
Heckler—Heckling, 890, 1033, 1036, 1045, 1489
Height, 49, 1026
Heir—Heirs, 341
Heiress—Heiresses, 1183
Heirloom—Heirlooms, 587
Helium, 532
Hell, 166, 235, 242, 313, 366, 395, 542, 556, 596, 1021, 1394, 1538
Helpfulness, 566, 597-599, 704, 749
Helplessness, 1279
Hen—Hens, 801
Henpeck—Henpecked, 394
Henry, Patrick, 65
Heredity, 1505
Hermit—Hermits, 885
Hero—Heroes, 1192
Herring, 1542
Hi-fi, 1132
Highball—Highballs, 23, 1062
High school—High schools, 263, 804, 826, 1152, 1187
High-tension wire — High-tension wires, 491
Highway—Highways, 1512
Hindu—Hindus, 1015
Hiram College, Ohio, 405
History, 37, 205, 254, 1011, 1454
Hitch-hiking, 1188
Hitching-post—Hitching posts, 605
Hives, 1156
Hobby horse—Hobby horses, 1124
Hoboken, New Jersey, 1434
Hockey, 1386
Holdup, 133, 1028, 1085

Holiday—Holidays, 691
Holiday, Postman's, 304
Hollywood, California, 699, 1309
Hollywood divorce, 317
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, 265, 1000, 1144, 1495, 1545
Holster—Holsters, 1471
Holy Cross College, 1390
Home economics, 263
Home—Homes, 733, 1545
Home life, 47, 493
Homeliness, 1172
Home plate, 980
Homework, 509, 974
Honesty. See also Integrity, 482, 1170, 1406, 1505
Honeymoon, 191, 600-603, 837, 1175, 1503
Honorarium, 1094
Honor system, 1066
Hoover, Herbert, 1504
Hopefulness, 1276
Horn, Automobile, 1526
Horn-honking 676
Horse-and-buggy, 1513
Horse, Blind, 591
Horse-breeding, 616
Horse—Horses, 171, 174, 345, 396, 471, 500, 607, 908, 1055, 1105, 1167, 1272, 1297, 1393, 1516
Horse-racing, 211, 604-617, 698, 1389
Horse-sense, 1516
Horse tail, 615
Horse theft—Horse thefts, 588
Horse trader—Horse traders, 171, 174, 1167
Hosiery, 689
Hospital—Hospitals, 188, 199, 442, 454, 740, 1393
Hospital, Mental, 1127
Host and guests, 697, 714.
Host—Hosts, 466
Hostess—Hostesses, 134, 237, 941, 1360, 1424
Hostess, Airline, 1279
Hot dog—Hot dogs, 1383
Hotel—Hotels, 321, 392, 398, 531, 600, 602, 618-625, 685, 723, 1539, 1548
Hotel bill—Hotel bills, 444, 623
Hotel clerk—Hotel clerks, 321, 1534
Hotel manager—Hotel managers, 1022
Hotel registration, 621
House detective—House detectives, 723, 892
House fly—House flies, 1007
Housekeeper — Housekeepers, 411
Housemaid—Housemaids, 1296
House of Commons, 1029
House of Representatives, 1020
House-to-house canvas, 1323
Housewife—Housewives, 1331
Human being—Human beings, 1007
Human body, 1450
Human cannonball, 418
Human relations, 1153
Humor, 34, 909, 926
Humorist—Humorists, 1496
Humor, Sense of, 1152
Humphrey, George M., 260
Hunch—Hunches, 617
Hunger, 483, 590, 685, 1568
Hunter—Hunters, 115, 1362
Hunting, 626, 627, 679, 706, 904, 1558
Hunting, Husband, 1238
Huntsville, Texas, 705
Hurricane—Hurricanes, 879
Husband-hunting, 1238
Husband—Wife, 3, 126, 255, 285, 317, 326, 470, 472, 486, 507, 526, 534, 563, 572, 596, 612, 620, 628-702, 730, 733, 924, 1267, 1304, 1307, 1366, 1396, 932, 1112, 1123, 1139, 1223, 1267, 1304, 1307, 1366, 1396, 1415, 1426, 1428, 1492, 1503, 1555, 1574, 1577

Hush money, 1312
Hyde Park, London, England, 537, 1029
Hydramatic shift, 633
Hymn—Hymns, 866
Hypertrophic cirrhosis, 1377
Hypnotist—Hypnotists, 193
Hypocrisy, 811
Hysteria, 782

I

Ice, 373, 524, 1157
Ice cream cone—Ice cream cones, 1023
Ice sports, 1386
Idaho, State of, 225, 873
Idea—Ideas, 729, 755, 1348
Identical, 650
Identification, 84, 272, 284, 703-711, 905, 1209
Identity, 712, 713
Idiot—Idiots, 670, 803, 1153
Illegibility, 1502
Ill fame, House of, 153
Illinois, State of, 947
Illiteracy, 1330
Illness, 308, 309, 315, 346, 358, 365, 373, 475, 611, 736, 1357, 1377
Illuminating gas, 1331
Illustration—Illustrative, 266, 1442
Illustrative example—Illustrative examples, 819
Imagination, 1328
Imitation, 1073
Immunization, 889
Imp—Imps, 1056
Impatience, 480, 668, 676
Impecunius, 157, 553, 660
Importance, 714, 715
Imposition—Impositions, 859
Impressario — Impressarios, 1337
Impression—Impressions, 293
Improvement, 560, 1413
Improvisation, 901
Impulse—Impulses, 351, 421
Incognito, 1042
Income, 449, 580
Income tax, 716-724, 1299
Indebtedness, 178
Indecency, 101
Indecision, 741
Independence Day, 205
Indian, American, 825, 1363, 1367, 1428
Indian—Indians, 12
Indictment—Indictments, 588, 1419
Indifference, 884
Indigence, 1022
Indigestion, 308
Individuality, 1380
Indolence, 517
Industry, 857
Inexperience, 330
Infection, Throat, 1506
Inferior—Inferiors, 1334
Infidel—Infidels, 1015
Infirmary, Infirmaries, 769
Inflation, 332, 1500
Information, 323, 725-728, 1436
Infringement, Patent, 753
Ingenuity. See also Resourcefulness, 1587
"In God We Trust," 260
Inheritance, 341, 1222
Initial—Initials, 30, 946
Initiative, 729, 1380
Injury, Personal, 900, 1297
Injustice, 273
In-laws, 26
Insane asylum—Insane asylums, 525, 944, 1127
Insanity, 275, 1125
Insanity plea, 772
Inscription, Tombstone, 674, 1222
Insect powder—Insect powders, 1197
Insincerity, 851
Insolvency, 169, 1096
Insomnia, 170, 193
Inspector, Customs, 1207

Inspiration, 446, 617, 857
Installment plan, 731
Installment purchase—Installment purchases, 730-734
Instinct, 840
Instructions, 455, 980, 1311
Insufficient funds, 117, 333
Insult—Insults, 67, 699, 1014, 1487
Insurance, 735-741, 1313
Insurance beneficiary, 741
Insurance company—Insurance companies, 198, 949
Insurance, Life, See Insurance
Insurance policy—Insurance policies, 198
Insurance premium—Insurance premiums, 738
Integrity, 168, 482, 742-745, 1185, 1505
Intelligence, 1513
Intention—Intentions, 746-748, 1278
Interest, 1016, 1035
Interest, Bank, 116
Interference, 749
Interior decorator—Interior decorators, 1194
Internal Revenue, 722
Interpreter—Interpreters, 34
Interruption—Interruptions, 887
Interview—Interviews, 1180
Interview, Job, 1479
Interview, Press, 7, 492
Interview, Television, 669
Intoxicating beverage—Intoxicating beverages, 377
Intoxication, 23, 125, 155, 242, 298, 581, 773, 1053, 1491, 1524, 1531, 1550, 1565
Introduction — Introductions, 1493
Introduction of speaker, 750, 751, 832, 1149, 1496
Intrusion—Intrusions, 739
Intuition, 43, 617
Invasion, Foreign, 64
Invention—Inventions, 151, 752-755, 1070, 1410
Inventor—Inventors, 752, 755
Inventory—Inventories, 455
Inverness, Duchess of, 477
Investment counsellor—Investment counsellors, 1091
Investment—Investments, 840, 1401
Invocation—Invocations, 1042
Involuntariness, 52
I.O.U., 178, 1196
Iphicrates, 27
Irish—Irishman, 70, 305, 540, 603, 1009, 1072, 1389
Isaacs, Rufus, 1354
Israelites, 143
Italy, 531
Itch—Itching, 353

J

Jackass—Jackasses, 1399
Jail—Jails, 481, 800, 809
Janitor—Janitors, 462, 1014
Janitress—Janitresses, 711
Japanese, 803
Jazz, 1132
Jealousy, 756-759, 1351
Jelly beans, 455, 844
Jew—Jews—Jewish, 163, 1015, 1176, 1204, 1403
Jewel box—Jewel boxes, 739
Jewelry, 595, 739, 783
Jitterburg—Jitterbugs, 1132
Job advancement—Job advancements, 424
Job application—Job applications, 451, 463, 481, 1565
Job interview—Job interviews, 686, 1479
Job—Jobs, 179, 729, 785
Job preparation, 406
Job promotion—Job promotions, 453
Job qualifications, 428, 446, 686 1320

Job reference—Job references, 425
Job replacement—Job replacements, 418, 464
Johnson, Dr. Samuel, 872, 938
Joint checking account, 479
Joke—Jokes, 34, 298, 638, 907, 926, 1004
Joshua, 1163
Journalism, 433, 760-767
Journalist — Journalists, 763, 1157
Joy, 159
Judge—Judges, 23, 258, 275, 279, 284, 313, 465, 588, 595, 1502
Judge—Jury, 768—772
Judgment, 840
Judicial robes, 465
July fourth, 205
Juneau, Alaska, 788
Junior prom, 229
Jupiter, 1360
Jurisdiction—Jurisdictions, 76, 726
Jury—Juries, 899
Jury duty, 1165
Jury foreman, 771
Justice, 773, 774
Justice, Soviet, 240
Justification, 775, 776
Juvenile delinquency, 777, 1587

K

Kentucky, State of, 1525
Key—Keys, 778
Keyhole—Keyholes, 793
Khrushchev, Nikita S., 1464
Kick—Kicking, 1131
Kidney ailment, 1104
Kimptom, Lawrence, 194
Kindergarten — Kindergartens, 1471
Kindness, 395, 779, 1350
King Alcohol, 399
Kingdom—Kingdoms, 898
King of England, 1225
Kiss—Kisses—Kissing, 256, 395, 773, 780-787, 1240, 1361
Kitchen—Kitchens, 953, 1075, 1421
Kitchen gadget—Kitchen gadgets, 1411
Kitten—Kittens, 1205
Kiwanis International, 689
Knee—Knees, 188
Knit—Knitting, 49, 576, 1528
Knot, Marriage, 847
Know-how, 615, 788-790
Knowledge, 152, 612
Knowledge, Source of, 910
Koran, The, 1015
Korda, Sir Alexander, 183
Korea—Korean, 34
KP duty, 55
Kreisler, Fritz, 496
Kremlin, The, 243

L

Laboratory—Laboratories, 151, 307
Labor, Division of, 492
Labor leader—Labor leaders, 871
Labor legislation, 845
Labor union—Labor unions, 662, 1192
Lachman, Marc, 546
Ladder—Ladders, 641, 1108
Lady—Ladies, 1345
Lake—Lakes, 1027
Lamp—Lamps, 142, 148
Landlord—Landlords, 375
Landlord—Tenant, 378, 791-798
Landscape—Landscapes, 88
Landseer, Sir Edwin, 1001
Language, 799-806, 1134, 1545
Language difficulty, 799, 801
Larceny, 62, 135, 258, 313, 588, 595, 1211
Lardner, Ring, 474
Lasso—Lassos, 1154
Las Vegas, Nevada, 916
Latrine duty, 1177

Laughter, 34, 638, 983, 1448
Law book—Law books, 771, 1338
Law—Laws, 1027
Lawn mower—Lawn mowers, 628
Law office—Law offices, 1106
Law school—Law schools, 186
Lawsuit—Lawsuits, 312, 465, 765, 899, 1274, 1578
Lawyer—Client, 9, 297, 322, 697, 809, 813-815, 1086, 1092, 1093, 1106, 1363
Lawyer—Lawyers. See also Lawyer—Client, 14, 85, 271, 279, 297, 312, 763, 807-812, 899, 1043, 1101, 1201, 1338, 1419, 1501, 1561
Laziness, 816, 881
Leadership, 817-820, 1380
Leadership, Military, 254
Leading lady, 1343
League of Nations, 1017
Leavitt, Ken, 1142
Lecture—Lectures, 2, 34, 39, 53, 484, 586, 836, 1145, 1191, 1414
Lecturer — Lecturers, 1158, 1496
Lecturer, Temperance, 1414
Lee, General Robert E., 816, 949
Leeway, 663
Leftovers, 1051
Leg—Legs, 336, 344, 345, 461, 932
Legacy—Legacies, 9, 1222
Legal advice, 815
Legal services, 1100
Legislation, 225
Legislation, Labor, 845
Legislature, State, 1046
Lemon—Lemons, 1209
Lending, 156
Letter, Form, 625
Letter—Letters, 1329
Letter, Personal, 647
Letter-writing, 1497
Lettuce, 388
Levenson, Sam, 685
Lewis, Sinclair, 542
Lexington, Kentucky, 713
Liar—Liars, 521, 529, 801, 807, 1031
Liberty, 65, 398
Librarian—Librarians, 776, 822, 823, 1168
Library—Libraries, 697, 821-823
Library card—Library cards, 823
License, Driver's, 460, 1416
License, Hunting, 1238
License, Marriage, 868
License plates, Automobile, 1161
Lie—Lies, 313
Lieutenant—Lieutenants, 69
Life, 139, 824, 825, 840, 1475
Life insurance. See Insurance.
Light, 491
Lighting, Electrical, 173
Light meter—Light meters, 915
Lightning, 1070, 1347
Lightning rod—Lightning rods, 1070
Limp—Limping, 501
Lincoln automobile, 1534
Lindbergh, Anne, 1135
Lion—Lions, 115, 1362
Lions International, 226
Lipton, Sir Thomas, 1319
Liquor, Alcoholic, 56
Lisp—Lisping, 505
Listening, 210, 413, 552
Liszt, Franz, 1425
Literacy, 1180
Literature, 826, 827
Litigation, 1274
Living, 825
Living, Cost of, 580, 828, 829
Living room—Living rooms, 1331
Lloyd George, David, 1467, 1489

Loan—Loans, 155, 156, 295, 821, 1016, 1401, 1426, 1552
Loan, Bank, 114, 118
Locket—Lockets, 989
Logic, 43, 159, 830
Log, Ship's, 1550
London, England, 12, 121, 176, 246, 400, 537, 555, 586, 603, 710, 805, 827, 955, 957, 1011, 1029, 1502, 1505
Loneliness, 577, 1379
Lonely hearts club, 1276
Long distance call—Long distance calls, 1057
Long distance operator—Long distance operators, 55
Long distance telephone—Long distance telephones, 1118
Longevity, 959, 1365
Long Island, New York, 743
Longwindedness, 414, 831-836, 1137
Longworth, Mrs. Nicholas. See Alice Roosevelt
Loquacity, 651, 1585
Los Angeles, California, 400, 825, 1189, 1499
Loss—Losses, 240, 969
Loss, Financial, 555
Loss-leader—Loss-leaders, 247
Lost and found, 1198
Lost property, 1185
Lottery—Lotteries, 694
Lottery ticket—Lottery tickets, 694
Loud speaker—Loud speakers, 1064
Louis XIV, King, 734, 774
Love, 126, 311, 548, 635, 837, 843, 989, 1236, 1242, 1280, 1358
Love life, 352
Low, David, 1157
Lowell, James Russell, 1163
Lower berth—Lower berths, 485
Luck, 530, 613, 626, 773, 838-840, 854, 1013
Luckman, Sid, 1130
Luggage, 160, 600, 1539
Lumberman—Lumbermen, 170
Lunatic—Lunatics, 193, 1186
Lunch—Lunches, 2, 393
Lunch counter—Lunch counters, 388
Lunch hour, 590
Luxury, 557

M

MacArthur, Charles, 1206
Machine — Machinery, 591, 1221, 1410
Machinist—Machinists, 1321
Macmillan, Harold, 250
Magazine—Magazines, 101
Magistrate—Magistrates, 275
Maid—Maids, 452, 734, 838, 1551
Maine, State of, 873
Major—Majors, 69
"Major Schurtz," 948
Male—Males, 1110
Malenkov, Georgi, 1464
Man—Men, 841
Mann, Horace, 777
Manufacturer — Manufacturers, 672, 962
Manuscript—Manuscripts, 89, 102
Man—Woman, 252, 348, 817, 842-845, 850, 1371, 1440
Marine Corps. See Armed forces
Market—Markets, 1316
Marksmanship, 1264
Marriage. See also Husband—Wife, 99, 107, 230, 252, 411, 473, 516, 563, 640, 645, 787, 846-873, 989, 1112, 1113, 1232, 1252, 1255, 1257, 1503
Marriage broker — Marriage brokers, 93
Marriage ceremony—Marriage ceremonies, 256, 1103, 1112
Marriage certificate—Marriage

certificates, 1103
Marriage license — Marriage licenses, 868
Marriage, Second, 675
Marriage, Shotgun, 867
Marriage vows, 851
Married life, 106, 696, 874-884
Married man—Married men, 436
Martini cocktail—Martini cocktails, 33, 433, 524
Mascagni, Pietro, 1107
Mask—Masks, 1085
Mason, Edith, 997
Masses, The, 240
Masterpiece, Art, 86
Match—Matches, 1384
Material, Building, 557
Maternity clothes, 1306
Mathematician — Mathematicians, 42
Mathematics, 43
Matrimonial agency, 871
Matrimony. See also Marriage, 866, 1190, 1246, 1258
Matron, Society, 1423
Matthews, Brander, 1002
Max, Adolphe, 1504
Maxims, American, 803
Mayer, Louis B., 1309
Mayonnaise dressing, 388
Mayor—Mayors, 1045
McAdden, Stephen, 1139
McKinley, William, 1402
Meal—Meals, 308
Meanness, 426, 885
Measles, 473
Meat, 478, 1390
Meat-slicer — Meat slicing, 1315
Mechanic—Mechanics, 1408
Mechanical equipment, 1329, 1466
Mechanization, 1466
Medal—Medals, 1171
Medical advice, 1082
Medical book—Medical books, 404
Medical research, 361
Medical science. See also Doctor—Patient, 886-889
Medication. See also Medicine, 964, 973, 986, 1088, 1104
Medicine. See also Medication, 193, 336, 1088, 1104
Medicine. See also Medication, 193, 336, 363, 639
Megaphone — Megaphones, 1545
Membership, Club, 178, 226-228
Membership dues, 1219
Memory—Memorizing, 85
Mendicant, 1420
Men's room, 1071
Mental bet, 606
Mental hospital—Mental hospitals, 1127
Mental illness, 683
Menu — Menus, 388, 806, 1051, 1528, 1532
Mercy, 908
Merger—Mergers, 640
Merit—Merits, 1331
Merritt, Major General Wesley, 76
Message—Messages, 337
Mess hall—Mess halls, 66
Meter, Light, 915
Methodist bishop, 228
Methodist — Methodists, 478, 1044, 1061, 1163
Metropolitan Museum of Art, 83, 87
Metropolitan Opera House, 901, 997
Mexican ambassador, 696
Miami, Florida, 1422
Michelangelo, 531
Microphone — Microphones, 367, 1151
Microscope—Microscopes, 142
Middle age, 352
Midnight special, 388

Milan, Italy, 1107
Military leadership, 254
Military review, 63
Milk, 992
Millennium, 754
Miller, Thurman, 368
Millinery, 1562, 1579
Millionaire — Millionaires, 7, 32, 325, 517, 656, 1332, 1410
Milton, John, 100
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 887
Mimicry, 1019
Mind—Minds, 328, 562, 606, 650, 1138
Mind, Peace of, 720
Mind, Presence of, 890-901
Minimum wage, 415
Minister—Ministers, 137, 211, 216, 222, 224, 262, 511, 553, 616, 687, 722, 866, 870, 884, 895, 945, 959, 1061-1063, 1141, 1166, 1181, 1394, 1565, 1566
Mink coat—Mink coats, 636, 1023, 1414
Minneapolis, Minnesota, 702
Minnesota, State of, 192, 542
Miracle—Miracles, 193, 627, 902, 1056
Mirror — Mirrors, 142, 802, 1185
Mischief — Mischievousness, 1349
Miserliness, 1275, 1283
Misfortune, 1057, 1126
Misprint—Misprints, 48
Missionary—Missionaries, 555, 704
Mississippi, State of, 10
Missouri, State of, 1076
Mistake—Mistakes, 215, 325, 457, 528, 706, 707, 742, 765, 836, 852, 903-909, 1021, 1046, 1278
Mistress—Mistresses, 709
Misunderstanding, 748
Mixer, Social, 1565
Mockery, 1019
Modern age, 910-916, 1239
Modern art, 84, 91
Modernization, 795
Modern music, 935
Modesty, 917, 918
Mohammedan, 1015
Molecule—Molecules, 484
Money, 157, 259, 298, 383, 547, 553, 595, 660, 775, 846, 865, 919-922, 1084, 1134, 1503
Money, Counterfeit, 1385
Money, Paper, 260
Monkey—Monkeys, 26
Monroe, Marilyn, 1426
Monte Carlo, 837
Monument—Monuments, 674, 1222
Moon, 265, 1367
Moonlight, 837
"Moonlight Sonata," 1132
Moonshine — Moonshiner, 19, 279, 1106
Moore, Thomas, 1505
Moose, 706
Moose, Loyal Order of, 226
Moral—Morals, 1362
Morale, 45
Morrow, Dwight W., 406, 1135
Morrow, Mrs. Dwight W., 696
Moscow, U.S.S.R., 241, 1464
Moses, 143
Mosquito—Mosquitoes, 624
Mother—Mothers, 966
Mother—Child, 923, 1549
Mother—Daughter, 912, 1421
Motherhood, 923
Mother Hubbard, 1580
Mother-in-law — Mothers-in-law, 473, 924-931
Mother-of-pearl, 929
Mother—Son, 59, 515, 516, 816
Mother Superior, 593
Motion—Motions, 536, 1163
Motion picture producer — Motion picture producers, 699, 1309

Motion pictures, 149, 882, 1195
Motion picture theatre—Motion picture theatres, 1192
Motive—Motives, 278, 932
Motive power, 591
Motorbus — Motorbuses, 266, 275, 475, 583
Motorist—Motorists, 147, 283, 1416
Motorist, Woman, 1584
Mountain—Mountains, 1047
Mountaineer — Mountaineers, 867, 1099
Mount Vernon, 1186, 1500
Mt. Wilson Observatory, 1314
Mouse-trap—Mouse-traps, 911
Mouthpiece, Telephone, 243
Mouth-watering, 375
Movie producer—Movie producers. See also Motion picture producer, 315
Movies, 149, 882, 1195
Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus, 11, 1117
Mudpack—Mudpacks, 128
Multi-millionaire — Multi-millionaires, 656
Multiplication, 40, 41
Munsey, Frank A., 1329
Murder—Murders, 380, 878, 993
Museum—Museums, 753
Museum of Natural History, 1453
Mushroom—Mushrooms, 1109
Music, 25, 66, 901, 933-942, 1132
Musicale, 1427
Musical scale, 1084
Music composer—Music composers, 11
Music concert—Music concerts, 746
Music conductor—Music conductors, 277, 939, 1492
Musician — Musicians, 1352, 1425, 1492
Music, Modern, 935
Music shop—Music shops, 32
Music teacher—Music teachers, 1352
Mute—Mutes, 1548
Myopia, 1377
Mystery—Mysteries, 793
Mystery novel — Mystery novels, 1168

N

Name—Names, 3, 160, 610, 618, 633, 879, 942-950, 1006, 1011, 1047, 1539, 1567
Name-calling, 1477
Napkin—Napkins, 469, 1213
Napoleon I, 254
Nash, Beau, 335
National anthem, 24
Nationality—Nationalities, 297
National Press Club, 1219
National spelling bee, 1375
Nations, League of, 1017
Natural-born, 765
Natural talent, 11
Nature, 753, 754, 790
Navy. See Armed forces
Neatness, 1075
Neck—Necks, 1026
Necklace—Necklaces, 622
Necklace, Pearl, 87
Necktie—Neckties, 134, 545, 680, 1326
Negotiations, 662
Neighbor — Neighbors, 239, 758, 950, 951-953, 1187, 1201, 1301, 1418, 1507, 1530, 1561
Nerve—Nerves, 305
Nervous compulsion, 1129, 1130
Nervousness, 1143, 1207
Nest—Nests, 302
Neuritis, 1377
Neuro-muscular coordination, 1524
Neutrality, 954
New England, 679, 806, 1172
New Jersey, State of, 1434

Newlyweds, 160, 191, 602, 731, 1175, 1307
New Orleans, Louisiana, 698, 741
News, 1256
Newsboy—Newsboys, 894
Newspaper — Newspapers, 12, 760, 762, 1039, 1422, 1465
Newspaper column — Newspaper columns, 1012
Newspaper columnist—Newspaper columnists, 1330
Newspaperman — Newspapermen, 433
Newspaper photo—Newspaper photos, 493
Newspaper publisher — Newspaper publishers, 909
Newspaper subscription — Newspaper subscriptions, 909
Newton, Sir Issac, 1340
New Year, 830
New York, New York, 83, 91, 248, 266, 275, 510, 692, 840, 991, 1022, 1079, 1369, 1432, 1499
New York, State of, 194
New York World, 1336
Niagara Falls, 194, 1355
Nickel—Nickels, 259
Niggardliness, 1283
Night clerk, Hotel, 621
Night club—Night clubs, 726, 1484
Nightmare — Nightmares, 229, 723
Night school, 804
Night watchman—Night watchmen, 686
Nivernois, Duc de, 883
Noah, 41
Noise, 619, 794, 938
Nomad, 1322
Nome, Alaska, 787
Non-profit organization—Non-profit organizations, 165
Normalcy, 342, 1121
Northampton, Massachusetts, 1387
North Carolina, State of, 755
North Pole, 751
Nose—Noses, 195
Notice, Eviction, 793
Notoriety, 542
Novel—Novels, 102, 1190
Novelist — Novelists, 102, 1134, 1349
Novel, Mystery, 1168
Novelty—Novelties, 643
N.S.F., 117, 333
Nuclear physicist — Nuclear physicists, 1368
Nudist—Nudists, 1250
Nudity, 80, 85
Nurse—Nurses, 331, 349, 351, 474
Nylon hosiery, 689

O

Oak tree—Oak trees, 405
Oarsman—Oarsmen, 264
Oats, 504
Oats, Wild, 504
Obedience, 981
Obesity, 972
Objects d'art, 81, 92
Observation — Observations, 999
Obstetrician — Obstetricians, 360, 887
Ocean—Oceans, 837
Octogenarian — Octogenarians, 903
Odd and even, 364
Odor—Odors, 187
Off-color, 101
Offensive, 1381
Office boy—Office boys, 393, 422, 1426
Office manager—Office managers, 1311
Officer, Army, 715
Official, Government, 581
Ohio, State of, 588
Oil, 30, 1400

Oil man—Oil men, 30
Oil well—Oil wells, 1400
Old age, 336, 849, 955-957
Old clothes dealer—Old clothes dealers, 593
Oldfield, Barney, 1408
Old maid—Old maids, 847
Olive—Olives, 524
Olympia, Washington, 402
One-way ticket — One-way tickets, 1353
Onion—Onions, 388, 1082
Opera, Grand, 901, 1107
Operation, Surgical, 330, 347, 350, 353, 1085, 1102
Operator, Telephone, 398, 705
Opinion, Dissenting, 1563
Opinion—Opinions, 241, 276, 281, 558, 774, 811, 1336, 1350
Opponent — Opponents, 1043, 1353
Opportunity — Opportunities, 265, 958-961, 1205, 1296
Opposite—Opposites, 1293
Optimism, 112, 261, 962, 1276
Orange—Oranges, 597, 898
Orator, Soapbox, 1029
Oratory, 1363
Orchestra conductor — Orchestra conductors, 901
Orchestra — Orchestras, 934, 939, 1213, 1532
Orchestra, Symphony, 25
Orchid—Orchids, 1242
Orderliness, 794
Organist—Organists, 215
Organizer—Organizers, 1565
Originality, 1002
Orkney Islands, 443
Orlando, Vittorio, 1467
Orphan asylum—Orphan asylums, 1218
Orphan—Orphans, 931
Osler, Sir William, 377
Ostrich-like, 475
Ouija board—Ouija boards, 596
Outboard motor — Outboard motors, 1322
Outcast—Outcasts, 1015
Outer space, 1367-1371, 1529
Ovation—Ovations, 901
Overcoat—Overcoats, 268, 905
Overdraft, Bank, 113, 119
Overpayment — Overpayments, 742
Oversight, 25
Overstatement — Overstatements, 627
Overtime, 17
Overweight, 447, 899, 963-973, 1450, 1534
Ownership, 148, 688, 1229
Oxford University, 412, 1074
Oyster—Oysters, 87

P

Pacification, 1047
Pacific Ocean, 728
Paderewski, Ignace, 696, 998, 1017
Page—Paging, 887
Pain, 336, 359
Paint, 104, 1133, 1389
Painter—Painters, 80, 83, 92, 553, 1194, 1328, 1506
Painting—Paintings, 82, 83, 85, 87, 88, 90, 91, 1328, 1405
Paleface—Palefaces, 825, 1367
Palm Beach, Florida, 1559
Palm-reading, 1327
Pancakes, 1019
Pandemonium, 1152
Panhandler—Panhandlers, 132
Parachute—Parachutes, 46, 58
Parade—Parades, 1189
Paradise, 988
Paralysis, 784
Paratrooper—Paratroopers, 46, 52, 58
Parent—Child, 450, 740, 910, 974-989, 1218, 1249
Parenthood, 28
Parent—Parents, 855, 1280, 1435

Parent-Teacher Association, 1376, 1475
Paris, France, 21, 84, 799, 956, 1488, 1532, 1548
Parishioner—Parishioners, 884
Parity, 38
Parking, Automobile, 1508, 1511
Parking lot—Parking lots, 1009
Parking place—Parking places, 1187
Parliamentary procedure, 64
Parole, 402, 425, 1037
Parrot—Parrots, 794
Participation, 1282
Partnership—Partnerships, 447, 492, 990, 991
Pascal, Blaise, 195
Passenger, Railroad, 399, 1186
Pass key—Pass keys, 462
Past due, 296
Pasteur, Louis, 1341
Pastor—Pastors, 216, 219, 223, 256, 551
Pastoral visit, 884
Past participle—Past participles, 1189
Past Potentate—Past Potentates, 1189
Past, The, 124, 132, 828
Pasture—Pastures, 591
Patent infringement, 753
Patent Office, U.S., 752
Patent—Patents, 753, 755
Paternity, 988
Patience, 675, 992-994
Patriotism, 995
Patti, Adelina, 1095
Pawnbroker—Pawnbrokers, 603, 1016
Pawnshop—Pawnshops, 603
Payday—Paydays, 653
Pay envelope—Pay envelopes, 694
Paying teller—Paying tellers, 711
Payment—Payments, 297, 299, 301
Peace, 266, 1454
Peach tree—Peach trees, 503
Peanut—Peanuts, 902
Pearl—Pearls, 783, 929
Pearly Gates, 235, 708
Pearson, Drew, 873
Peasant—Peasants, 241
Peddler—Peddlers, 1327
Peddling, 483
Pedestrian—Pedestrians, 132
Penalty—Penalties, 1191
Pencil—Pencils, 835, 1031, 1457, 1519
Pencil, Mechanical, 1221
Pendulum—Pendulums, 993
Penicillin, 361, 766
Penitentiary — Penitentiaries, 540, 705, 1363, 1465
Penitentiary warden—Penitentiary wardens, 1218
Pennant—Pennants, 1374
Penny—Pennies, 259
Pension—Pensions, 1270
Penury, 157
Perambulator — Perambulators, 994
Percentage—Percentages, 724, 1391
Perfection, 568, 687, 787, 849, 996, 997, 1437
Perfume, 671, 1260
Perseverance, 446, 517, 998, 999
Persistence, 279, 359
Personal, 57
Personal injury—Personal injuries, 812, 1274, 1297
Personality, 1469
Personality, Political, 1135
Personal letter—Personal letters, 647
Personal director—Personal directors, 1345
Personnel manager—Personnel managers, 446, 1321
Perspiration, 340

Pest control service, 1184
Pew, Church, 213
Pharmacist—Pharmacists. See also Druggist, 386
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 64, 1079, 1387
Philandering, 188
Philanthropy, 550
Philosopher, Cracker-barrel, 403
Philosopher — Philosophers, 161, 382, 993
Phonograph — Phonographs, 755
Phonograph record—Phonograph records, 199
Photograph—Photographs, 6, 603, 1258, 1361
Photographer — Photographers, 915
Photographic supplies, 523
Photography, 915, 1000, 1001
Phthisis, 1377
Physical examination—Physical examinations, 332, 343
Physical development, 51
Physicist, Nuclear, 1368
Physiognamy, 195
Physiology, 1450
Pianist—Pianists, 935, 1017, 1018
Piano—Pianos, 66, 794
Pianoforte, 938
Piano recital—Piano recitals, 1018
Piano tuner—Piano tuners, 951
Picasso, Pablo, 84, 93
Picket, Picketing, 1192
Pickle—Pickles, 388
Pickpocket—Pickpockets, 1, 989
Picnic—Picnics, 1021
Picture—Pictures, 6, 82, 1000, 1010, 1328
Picture window—Picture windows, 1434
Pie—Pies, 923
Pig—Pigs, 502, 505
Pigeon—Pigeons, 1008
Pilferage, Hotel, 622
Pill—Pills, 1527
Pillars, Supporting, 1351
Pill, Reducing, 964, 973
Pilot, Airplane, 160
Pinball machine—Pinball machines, 1369
Pin-up girl—Pin-up girls, 1476
"Pinwheel Smith," 708
Pioneering, 729
Pipe-smoking, 1366
Pistol—Pistols, 1028, 1471
Pitcher, Baseball, 980
Pity, 253, 999
Placard—Placards, 8
Plagiarism, 1002
Plan—Plans—Planning, 731, 840, 1555
Planet—Planets, 1360
Plantation—Plantations, 1128
Plaque—Plaques, 497
Plastering, 393
Plastic surgeon—Plastic surgeons, 1172
Platoon system, 1381
Playboy—Playboys, 869, 1275
Playground—Playgrounds, 552
Playing cards, 496
Playsuit—Playsuits, 1578
Playwright—Playwrights, 1206
Pleasure, 1529
Pluck, 517
Plumber—Plumbers, 339, 419, 1098
Plumber's helper, 451
Plumbing, 1098
Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, 895
Pneumonia, 361
Pocket—Pockets, 1
Pocketbook—Pocketbooks, 140, 989
Poet—Poets, 97, 100, 1328, 1505
Poetry, 100, 142, 837
Point of view, 146, 280, 830, 1003-1023, 1316, 1325
Poison—Poisons, 685, 993, 1220
Poison, Rat, 385

Poker, 178, 179, 182, 183, 700, 1165
Poland, 1017
Police, Chief of, 147
Police—Policeman, 147, 298, 354, 397, 454, 537, 703, 769, 900, 1024-1029, 1077, 1198, 1200, 1416, 1501, 1519, 1526
Policeman, Motorcycle, 186
Policeman, Traffic, 1519
Politeness, 13, 1030, 1031
Political campaign—Political campaigns, 498
Political candidate—Political candidates, 893
Political promises, 1045
Political speech — Political speeches, 890
Politician — Politicians, 331, 1038
Politics, 1032-1047
Pontoon bridge—Pontoon bridges, 143
Poodle, French, 1506
Porcelain, 92
Portfolio, Investment, 1091
Porthole—Portholes, 1531
Portrait—Portraits, 1405
Postage stamp—Postage stamps, 516
Postal official—Postal officials, 724
Post card, Picture, 90
Posterity, 1036
Posthumous, 1159
Postman's holiday, 304
Postmaster—Postmasters, 1193
Post office box—Post office boxes, 707
Postscript—Postscripts, 516, 1031
Potassium cyanide, 1527
Potato—Potatoes, 38, 502, 767, 873
Potentate (Shrine), 1189
Potomac River, 1500
Poughkeepsie, New York, 1006
Poultry farm—Poultry farms, 1379
Poultry show—Poultry shows, 499
Poverty, 538, 543, 1158, 1535
Power, 1467
Power, Electric, 540
Practice—Practices, 58, 1404
Practice, Professional, 334
Praise, 833, 1276, 1425
Prayer—Prayers, 262, 535, 616, 724, 1021, 1048-1058, 1341
Preacher—Preachers, 212, 1048, 1059-1063, 1065, 1103, 1105, 1163, 1181, 1182, 1424, 1565
Preaching, 214, 1064, 1065
Precaution, 371, 1066-1070
Precious gems, 989
Prediction, Weather, 790
Preferment, 1071, 1070
Pregnancy, 282, 727
Prejudice, 1073
Premature, 366, 1464
Premier—Premiers, 1017
Premium, Insurance, 738
Pre-natal influence, 199
Preparation, Job, 406
Preparedness, 1069, 1074-1077, 1252
Presbyterian — Presbyterians, 1044
Prescription—Prescriptions, 324, 335, 336, 361, 365, 381, 387, 1088
Present, Birthday, 966
Presidency, U.S., 961, 1135, 1136, 1219, 1409, 1426
President of Switzerland, 498
Presley, Elvis, 110
Press interview—Press interviews, 7
Pretense, 1352
Price—Prices, 121, 1308
Price reduction—Price reductions, 167
Pride, 312, 331, 1078, 1079, 1505
"Pride and Prejudice," 497
Pride, National, 1072

Priest—Priests, 303, 585
Prime minister, English, 957
Prince of Wales, 1225
Principal, School, 804, 1435
Principle—Principles, 174
Printer—Printers, 260
Prison—Prisons, 705
Prisoner—Prisoners, 815
Privacy, 522, 647
Private, Army, 71
Private secretary—Private secretaries, 447
Prize fight—Prize fights, 1021
Prize fighter—Prize fighters, 1180
Prize—Prizes, 1206, 1412, 1465
Pro and con, 1442
Probability, 1441
Problem—Problems, 1116
Procreation, 40, 41
Prodigy—Prodigies, 989
Producer—Motion picture, 315, 699, 1309
Profanity, 1021, 1080, 1081, 1343
Professional advice, 1104
Professional fees, 256, 325, 340, 357, 814, 1082-1107, 1144, 1561
Professional services, 1089
Professor—Professors, 2-4, 236, 410, 476, 754, 836, 907, 916, 1066, 1203, 1333
Profit—Profits, 173, 174, 240, 909, 1205, 1401, 1411
Profit-opportunity, 894
Profligacy, 1498
Program chairman—Program chairmen, 1154
Program—Programs, 942
Progress, 1108, 1442
Progress, Medical, 888
Promise, Breach of, 1274
Promise, Political, 1045
Promise—Promises, 168
Promotion, Job, 424, 453, 511
Promotion—Promotions, 301
Prompter—Prompters, 901
Promptness, 668
Proof, 574, 635, 1109-1112, 1434
Proof-reader — Proof-readers, 1321
Propellor—Propellors, 392
Property damage, 900
Prophet—Prophets, 234
Proposal, Marriage, 1266
Prosecuting attorney—Prosecuting attorneys, 588
Prosperity, 756, 1411
Protegee—Protegees, 1357
Protestant—Protestants, 163, 228
Prussia, King of, 898
Psoriasis, 1377
Psychiatrist—Psychiatrists, 328, 719, 1083, 1087, 1097, 1113-1118, 1280, 1355
Psychiatry, 1119-1132
Psychoanalyst — Psychoanalysts, 1130
Psychologist — Psychologists, 742, 782, 1012, 1583
Psychology, 1133, 1134
Psychology, Child, 1133
Psychology class, 267
Psycho-motor activity, 1524
Psychopathology, 1121
P.T.A., 1376, 1475
Pub—Pubs, 400
Public office—Public offices, 1043, 1135, 1136
Public school—Public schools, 1435
Public speaking, 95, 542, 750, 833, 1137-1163
Publisher—Publishers, 101
Pugilism, 1021
Pulchritude, See Beauty
Pullman conductor—Pullman conductors, 485
Pulse, 351
Punctuality, 217, 668
Punctuation, 459
Punishment, 1164, 1165, 1198, 1448, 1468, 1472

Punishment, Capital, 95
Puppy—Puppies, 251, 1115
Purchasing agent—Purchasing agents, 1004
Purity, 159
Purse—Purses, 140, 275
Push—Pull, 819
Putt—Putting, 562, 563, 571

Q

Quack—Quacks, 404
Qualifications, 1166, 1167
Qualifications, Job, 428, 451, 686, 1320
Quarrel—Quarrels, 145, ·534, 684, 685, 884, 1544
Quarrelsome, 1565
Quartet—Quartets, 277
Quebec, Canada, 1507
Queen of England, The, 690, 710
Question—Answer, 665, 1130, 1463
Question, Examination, 1463
Question—Questions, 67, 83, 179, 412, 515, 988
Quietude, 794
Quinn, Peter A., 751
Quintuplets, 617
Quit—Quitter, 431
Quitting notice, 452
Quota—Quotas, 1294

R

Rabbi—Rabbis, 483, 1058
Rabbit—Rabbits, 40
Race horse—Race horses, 604
Racer, Automobile, 1408
Racetrack, Belmont Park, 396
Racetrack—Racetracks, 611, 713
Race, Yacht, 1389
Racing tip—Racing tips, 614, 616
Raconteur—Raconteurs, 1403
Radcliffe College, 1293
Radio—Radios, 109, 367, 790, 794, 889, 1198, 1556
Radio broadcast—Radio broadcasts, 495
Radio station—Radio stations, 495
Rafters, 1026
Raid—Raids, 288
Railroad bridge — Railroad bridges, 399
Railroad conductor — Railroad conductors, 1186
Railroad engineer — Railroad engineers, 1493
Railroad train — Railroad trains, 399
Railway station — Railway stations, 704
Rain — Raining, 726, 790, 792, 1058, 1400, 1461, 1557
Raincoat—Raincoats, 468
Raise, Wage, 1568, 1570
Rake—Rakes, 628
Ranch—Ranches, 1393
Rand, James H. Jr., 1329
Ranger, Forest, 1198
Ranier, 1047
Rank, Army, 61
Rat poison, 385
Rat-race, 911
Rat—Rats, 621, 1205, 1424
Rattlesnake—Rattlesnakes, 1076
Ravel, Maurice, 92
Razor blades, 1358
Razor, Electric, 247
Razor—Razors, 122
Reading, 338, 402, 789, 834, 1168, 1180, 1375
Reading, Lord, 1354
Real estate, 1169, 1170, 1306
Real estate dealer—Real estate dealers, 393
Realism, 82
Reason—Reasons, 51, 382, 877
Rebuke, 395, 1153
Receivership, 1285
Reception room—Reception rooms, 329
Reception, Wedding, 862
Recipe—Recipes, 108, 158

Recital, Piano, 1018
Recognition, 1171, 1172
Recommendation — Recommendations, 425, 1565
Record player—Record players, 794
Recovery, 1391
Recreation, 290, 738
Recruiting office, 45
Red cross canteen—Red cross canteens, 1225
Red Sea, 143
Reduced rates, 1206
Reducing pill—Reducing pills, 964, 973
Reducing Weight, 968, 969, 971
Referee—Referees, 1390
Reference—References, 823, 1565
References, Job, 425, 447, 451
Reflection—Reflections, 802
Reformatory — Reformatories, 402
Refreshment stand—Refreshment stands, 289
Refrigerator — Refrigerators, 1123
Refund—Refunds, 723, 742, 805
Refusal—Refusals, 806, 1291
Regard—276
Regret, 474, 685
Rehearsal—Rehearsals, 1343, 1492
Rejection—Rejections, 253, 1348
Relatives, 1173, 1174, 1556
Relative size, 1319
Relief, 513
Religion, 228, 1175-1179
Religious affiliation, 1044
Religious college—Religious colleges, 754
Reminder—Reminders, 1302
Remington Rand, Inc., 1329
Renovation, 1243
Rent—Rental, 378, 449, 796, 798, 953
Rental increase—Rental increases, 791
Repair—Repairs, 32, 247
Repayment, 155
Repetition, 12, 1163
Replacement, Job, 418, 464
Reporter, Cub, 764
Reporter, Newspaper, 433, 492, 761, 834
Reprimand, 761
Reprobate—Reprobation, 1491
Reproduction — Reproductions, 40, 41
Reproof, 1153
Republican Party, 1041
Republican—Republicans, 1042
Reputation—Reputations, 949, 961, 1180-1182, 1277, 1499
Request—Requests, 1071
Rescue, 379, 539, 1053
Research, 1002
Research, Medical, 361
Resemblance, 751
Reservation, Hotel, 620
Reservation—Reservations, 869
Resignation, 1215, 1435
Resistance, 1281
Resort, Seaside, 1498
Resort, Vacation, 1172
Resourcefulness, 64, 546, 603, 1183-1207, 1294, 1304, 1318, 1324, 1328, 1461
Respect, 278, 1204
Respectability, 284
Respectfulness, 571
Responsiveness, 536
Restaurant—Restaurants, 268, 388, 469, 517, 550, 590, 678, 905, 982, 1184, 1208-1213, 1482, 1528, 1532
Results, 1132
Retail, 228
Retaining wall—Retaining walls, 397
Retaliation, 279
Retirement, 464, 482, 1214-1219
Retraction, 761
Retroactive, 278

Return from absence, 494
Reunion, Class, 542, 1218, 1411
Revenge, 559, 1220-1223
Reverence, 1054, 1204
Reverse, 409
Reverse English, 1224, 1225
Revolution, U.S., 1500
Revolver—Revolvers, 1504
Revolving doors, 392
Reward—Rewards, 745, 1226-1229
Re-write man, Newspaper, 762
Rib—Ribs, 644
Ribbon, Typewriter, 172
Rice, 602
Riddle—Riddles, 1203
Ridgefield, Connecticut, 707
Rifle range—Rifle ranges, 62, 74
Rifle—Rifles, 62, 74
Ring, Engagement, 1265
Ring, Wedding, 603, 852
Ripeness, 105
Rivalry, 246, 248, 1018
Road—Roads, 1178
Road show—Road shows, 1197
Roadster automobile, 783
Robbery, 167, 772, 1085, 1100
Robes, Judicial, 465
Robin—Robins, 302
Robot—Robots, 1369
Rochefort, Comtresse de, 883
Rockefeller Foundation, 1216
Rockefeller, John D., 220
Rockefeller, John D. Sr., 1295
Rocket, Space, 1370
Rodzinski, Artur, 1492
Rogers, Will, 1512
Romance, 175, 197, 252, 411, 530, 860, 883, 931, 956, 1069, 1230-1293
Roman Empire, 195
Rome, Italy, 1547
Romeo and Juliet, 1235
Rompers, 123
Roof—Roofs, 792, 1351
Roof garden—Roof gardens, 797
Rookie—Rookies, 58, 62, 63, 66, 69, 74, 75, 77
Roomer—Roomers, 793
Rooming house—Rooming houses, 1197
Roosevelt, Alice, 1500
Roosevelt, Theodore, 948, 961, 1428
Rooster—Roosters, 1379
Root, Elihu, 961
Rope—Ropes, 663
Rossetti, Dante Gabriel, 1328
Rothschild, Nathan Meyer Baron de, 293, 1420
Rough Rider—Rough Riders, 1428
Row—Rowing, 264
Rowboat—Rowboats, 530
Rubber factory—Rubber factories, 1170
Rubber plantation—Rubber plantations, 1128
Rubens, Peter Paul, 82
Rugby, 96, 176
Ruling class, 1029
Rum, 1046
Rumor—Rumors, 1294, 1295
Russell, Lord John, 477
Russia—Russian, 238, 241, 243-245, 752, 1145
Rust, 1557

S

Saadi, 1473
Sabbath, 1177
Sacrifice—Sacrifices, 352, 1036
Saddle—Saddles, 345
Safety, 797, 1057
Safety-first, 567, 1296, 1297
Safety, Traffic, 1077
Sagacity, 118
Sahara Desert, 1009
Sailor—Sailors, 45, 59, 125, 1013
St. Bernard dog, 539
St. Louis, Missouri, 1543
St. Mark's Cathedral, 531

St. Peter, 96, 235, 366, 529, 677, 708, 732
St. Vincent, 96
Salad, Chicken, 388
Salary—Salaries, 415, 450, 462, 653, 845, 949, 1228, 1298-1300
Salary increase—Salary increases, 417, 422, 432, 439, 1300
Sales conference—Sales conferences, 1305
Salesman, Door-to-door, 835
Salesman, Insurance, 737
Salesman—Salesmen, 241, 829, 1253, 1320
Salesmanship, 45, 241, 444, 541, 636, 1004, 1301-1331, 1578
Salesman, Travelling, 486, 1014
Salmon, 42
Saloon-keeper — Saloon-keepers, 1021
Salt—Salty, 387
Salutation—Salutations, 424
Salute—Salutes, 53
Salvation Army, 545, 1226
Sample—Samples, 1030
Sample case—Sample cases, 1326
Sample line, 1014
Samson, 5
Sandwich, Ham, 388
Sandwich man, 490
Sandwich—Sandwiches, 2, 387, 1213
San Francisco, California, 8, 363
Santa Claus, 203, 206, 1124, 1286
Santa Fe, New Mexico, 825
Sarcasm, 129, 280, 437, 1332-1338
Satan, 1474
Satiation, 314
Satiety, 314
Saturation point, 1134
Sausage—Sausages, 246, 1019
Savage—Savages, 1148
Savings, 116, 372, 1401
Savings bank—Savings banks, 116
Scaffold—Scaffolding, 454
Scale, Musical, 1084
Scale, Weighing, 1507
Scandal—Scandals, 498, 574
Schenectady, New York, 1006
Scholarship—Scholarships, 185, 748
School attendance, 401, 1340, 1455
School Board, 1435
School, Boys', 1352
School inspector—School inspectors, 1464
School principal—School principals, 804
School — Schools. See also Teacher—Pupil, 401, 1339, 1340, 1471
Schwab, Charles, 1469
Science, 1341, 1342, 1439
Scientist, Atomic, 916
Scientist, Foreign, 194
Scientist—Scientists, 254, 307, 484, 766, 1341
Scissors, 1479
Scotch and soda, 376
Scotchman, 1130, 1273, 1356, 1389, 1483
Scotland, 1056
Scottish, 297
Scoutmaster — Scoutmasters, 140
Scratch—Scratching, 353
Screw—Screws, 307
Script, Movie, 699
Sculptor—Sculptors, 996
Sea breeze, 1542
Seaman—Seamen, 1377
Search—Searching, 622
Sears Roebuck & Company, 734
Seashore, 1542
Seaside resort — Seaside resorts, 1498
Seating arrangement, 714

Seattle, Washington, 891
Second base, 980
Second best, 643
Second choice, 249
Second-hand, 103
Second-hand car—Second-hand cars, 1566
Second lieutenant — Second lieutenants, 53, 61
Second marriage, 675
Secrecy. See also Secret—Secrets, 1042, 1343, 1344, 1405
Secret — Secrets, 238, 575, 1343, 1344, 1405
Secretary of State, 961
Secretary—Secretaries. See also Stenographer — Stenographers, 440, 448, 1306, 1345, 1346, 1429, 1430
Security, 268
Selection, 954, 1068, 1437, 1348
Self-blame, 489, 1349, 1350
Self-confidence, 1351-1354
Self-control, 994
Self-defense, 1459
Self-discipline, 589
Self-educated, 834
Self-effacement, 187
Self-evident, 774
Self-help, 1355
Self-importance, 1355
Self-improvement, 1476
Self-interest, 566
Selfishness, 566, 1356, 1357
Self-love, 1358
Self-made, 834
Self-starter, 368
Sellout, 1190
Senator—Senators, 225
Senator, U.S., 1361
Seniority, 871
Sense—Senses, 637
Sentence, Suspended, 813
Sentry—Sentries, 24
Sergeant major — Sergeant majors, 53
Sergeant—Sergeants, 54, 56, 66, 67, 71, 75, 77, 79
Serial story — Serial stories, 101
Sermon—Sermons, 214, 215, 1059, 1060, 1064, 1065, 1153, 1182, 1497
Servant—Servants, 379, 380
Service—Services, 12
Settlement worker—Settlement workers, 953
Seven-Year Plan, 245
Sewing machine—Sewing machines, 681
Sex—Sexes, 1003, 1359, 1360
Sex-determination, 1110
Sexes, Equality of, 845
Shadow—Shadows, 961
Shake-down, 1361
Shakespeare, William, 827, 1180
Shame, 377, 1042, 1072
Shampoo, 120
Shave—Shaving, 131, 469, 907
Shaver, Electric, 247
Shaw, George Bernard, 89, 152, 533, 1422
Shaw, Mrs. George Bernard, 1422
Sheep, Black, 987
Sheep-counting, 170, 987
Sheriff—Sheriffs, 544
Shiftlessness, 633, 881, 1293
Shin-kicking, 176
Ship captain, 62
Ship—Ships, 59
Shirt—Shirts, 948
Shirtmaker—Shirtmakers, 948
Shoe box—Shoe boxes, 116
Shoe—Shoes, 20, 552, 1261, 1316, 1335, 1577
Shoes, Baby, 1335
Shopkeeper — Shopkeepers, 1505
Shop talk, 1114
Shortage, 465
Shortcomings, 1048

Short-cut—Short-cuts, 140
Shotgun marriage, 867
Shoulder, Cold, 678
Shovel—Shovels, 458
Showmanship, 1319
Shriner's Convention, 1189
Shyness, 134
Shyster, 1043
Sickness, 308, 309, 358, 365, 736, 1377
Sidewalk artist — Sidewalk artists, 88
Sightseeing, 83, 1536, 1545
Sign—Signs, 10, 1321
Signature—Signatures, 29, 260, 582, 1497
Silence, 265, 632, 653, 673, 1147, 1233, 1269, 1352, 1362, 1363
Silk, 1326
Silliness, 381
Silo—Silos, 757
Silver plate, 1546
Simplicity, 11, 299, 718, 1160
Simplification, 405, 718
Simpson, Milward, 1106
Simulation, 381
Sin—Sins, 136, 521
Sincerity, 408, 851, 1260
Sing—Singing, 536, 1084
Singing club, 936
Sing Sing prison, 540
Sinner—Sinners, 242
Sister—Sisters, 1449
Size, 902, 1026, 1261
Size, Relative, 1319
Skate—Skating, 999
Skill, 387
Skin, 1450
Skip—Skipping, 663
Skirt—Skirts, 1130, 1578
Skouras, Spyros, 1149
Slacks, 506
Slander, 238, 1473
Slang, 804
Slave—Slaves, 161
Sleep, 170, 193, 326, 720, 952, 987, 1059
Sleeping accommodations, 1197
Sleeplessness, 193
Slot machine—Slot machines, 225, 544
Small town—Small towns, 389
Smile—Smiles, 1134
Smith, Alfred E., 495
Smithers, Jonathan, 197
Smoking, 589, 592, 698, 1288, 1337, 1364-1366
Smoking room — Smoking rooms, 1402
Smuggling, 1207, 1419
Smurt, 1402
Snake—Snakes, 41, 1076
Snore—Snoring, 1247
Soap, 1586
Soapbox orator — Soapbox orators, 537, 1029
Soap manufacturer — Soap manufacturers, 7
Sobriety, 1491, 1550
Soccer team — Soccer teams, 1384
Social mixer, 1565
Social season, 1022
Social worker—Social workers, 953, 1491
Society matron—Society matrons, 1423
Sock—Socks, 49
Socket, Electric, 1331
Soda, Bicarbonate of, 1527
Soda-jerker, 388
Soft wood, 269
Soil, 1331
Soiree, 255
Solace, 585
Soldier—Soldiers, 63, 68-70, 154, 360, 745, 1177
Solicitation, 551
Solitaire, 1378
Solomon, King, 250, 1573
Solvency, 169, 172
Somnambulist — Somnambulists, 1175
Son—Sons, 12
Sonata—Sonatas, 936, 941

Song—Songs, 11, 142, 1427
Son-in-law—Sons-in-law, 863, 867, 926
Son-of-a-gun, 511
Sons of Temperance, 556
Sons of the American Revolution, 1494
Soot, 1331
Sophomore—Sophomores, 229
Sorority—Sororities, 891
Sorrow, 253
Soul—Souls, 556
Soup, 1210
Soup plate—Soup plates, 659
Source—Sources, 694
South Africa—South African, 12
South America, 1128
South Pole, 751
Souvenir—Souvenirs, 1159
Soviet justice, 240
Soviet Union, 1464
Space, Outer, 1367-1371, 1529
Space ship—Space ships, 1371
Spain, 1466
Spare parts, 32
Speaker, Banquet, 542
Speaker, Introduction of, 750, 751, 1149
Speaker—Speakers, 162, 1565
Specialist — Specialists, 339, 989
Specialist, Throat, 1506
Specimen—Specimens, 714
Spectator—Spectators, 280, 284
Speculator—Speculators, 840
Speech, freedom of, 537
Speech impediment, 1019
Speech, Political, 890
Speech—Speeches, 153, 750, 1020, 1034, 1150, 1155
Speed, 264, 788, 1342
Speeding, Automobile, 397, 1521, 1525
Speed record, 1408
Spelling, 459, 943, 1330, 1372-1377, 1455
Spelling bee—Spelling bees, 1377
Spending, 656, 718, 1259, 1276
Spheroid—Spheroidal, 751
Spinach, 478
Spine—Spines, 1146
Spinsterhood, 107, 195, 847, 859, 1231, 1378, 1379
Spirit—Spirits, 370
Spiritualism, 596
Spoils, 811
Sponge—Sponges, 744, 755
Sponge cake — Sponge cakes, 130
Spoon—Spoons, 1210
Sports, 232, 280, 561, 897, 1224, 1238, 1380-1390
Sports car—Sports cars, 105
Sportsmanship, 543
Spurgeon, Charles H., 1204
Squash, 405
Squeal—Squealing, 1468
Stalin, Josef, 1464
Stamps, Tuberculosis, 889
Standard—Standards, 997
Star—Stars, 1360, 1433
Stars and stripes, 1433
Star Spangled Banner, 24
Starvation, 609
State Department, U.S., 398
Statement, Financial, 112, 172
Stateroom—Staterooms, 1531
Statesman — Statesmen, 1155, 1353
Statistics, 1391, 1392
Statuary, 825
Statue—Statues, 996, 1008
Status quo, 1393, 1394
Steak, 1501
Stealing, 135, 258
Steel mill—Steel mills, 1469
Steeplechase, 616
Steeplejack—Steeplejacks, 454
Stenographer — Stenographers. See also Secretary—Secretaries, 441, 1287, 1372, 1395-1398, 1478, 1519
Stenographic pool, 1395

Stepladder — Stepladders, 899, 1108
Stevenson, Adlai E., 398, 1047, 1553
Stewardess—Stewardesses, 160
Stickpin—Stickpins, 1332
Stick-up, 133, 1085
Stinginess, 1275, 1283
Stinson, Eddie, 316
Stock Exchange, 1541
Stockholder — Stockholders, 1357
Stockings, 1536
Stock market, 378, 1399-1401
Stockyards, 1170
Stomach—Stomachs, 888, 1157
Stone, 89
Stone wall—Stone walls, 812
Stop sign—Stop signs, 283
Stork, 200
Storm—Storms, 443, 526, 796, 1013
Story, Shady, 1402
Story-telling, 109, 1402, 1403
Stove—Stoves, 1058
Straightforwardness, 1034
Stranger—Strangers, 154
Strapless gown — Strapless gowns, 1571
Strategy, 251, 1161
Strategy, Sales, 1304
Street car—Street cars, 16
Stretching, 1026
Strike, Labor, 662
String, 819
Stubbornness, 261, 1087, 1469
Student, Engineering, 1373
Student—Students, 406, 748, 900
Studio, Artist, 1010
Stuffed bird—Stuffed birds, 753
Stuffed shorts, 1534
Stumbling, 693
Stunt-driver — Stunt-drivers, 397
Stupidity, 715, 865
Subject, Speech, 1144
Submarine—Submarines, 73
Subscription, Newspaper, 909
Substance, 961
Substitute — Substitutes, 895, 1271, 1542
Substitution, 440
Subtlety, 1244
Subtraction, 1444
Suburbanite — Suburbanites, 488
Subway, 805
Subway train—Subway trains, 989
Success, 7, 168, 334, 407, 490, 643, 834, 1108, 1216, 1404-1411
Succession, 427
Successor—Successors, 1216
Succor, 1420
Suffering, 336, 407
Suffrage, 163
Sugar, 130, 1349
Sugar bowl—Sugar bowls, 892
Suggestion — Suggestions, 315, 1412-1414, 1465
Suggestion-box, 1413
Suggestiveness, 101
Suicide, 99, 278, 316, 327, 378
Sulphur, 765
Sulphuric acid, 1110
Sumatra, 1128
Summer, 1534, 1556
Summer camp — Summer camps, 984
Summer resort—Summer resorts, 682, 806, 1172
Sun, 1001, 1163
Sunburn, 1557
Sunday, 559
Sunday school — Sunday schools, 136, 143, 1021, 1227
Sunlight, 1195
Sunsuit—Sunsuits, 1578
Superintendent, School, 1435
Supermarket — Supermarkets, 1223
Superstition — Superstitions, 641
Supply and demand, 1309

Surgeon, Plastic, 1172
Surgeon—Surgeons, 339, 1085
Surgery, 1085
Surgery, Plastic, 1172
Surgical operation — Surgical operations, 330, 347, 350, 353, 1085, 1102
Surplice, 1061
Surplus, 1061
Surprise—Surprises, 36, 486
Surveyor—Surveyors, 192
Survival, 347
Suspenders, 1031, 1325
Suspense, 452
Suspicion, 245, 793, 976, 1415-1419, 1507
Sutherland, Duchess of, 477
Sutton, Willie, 775
Swearington, Thomas, 1046
Sweater—Sweaters, 20, 1528
Swedish, 481
Sweet potato—Sweet potatoes, 873
Swelling, 344
Swim—Swimmer — Swimming, 8, 404, 631, 1027
Swimming pool — Swimming pools, 236
Swindle—Swindles, 257
Switchboard — Switchboards, 398
Switzerland, 498, 539, 1207
Sword—Swords, 142
Sympathy, 118
Symphony—Symphonies, 11
Symptom — Symptoms, 329, 333, 346, 654, 1125
Synagogue, Jewish, 1058, 1204
Syrup, 1019
System, 1420
System, Betting, 615
System, Filing, 1346

T

Table-turning, 1421, 1422
Tackle, Football, 861, 1130
Tacoma, 1047
Tact, 583, 1047, 1423-1428
Taft, William Howard, 890
Tailor—Tailors, 270, 1576
Tailspin, 316
Talent, 675, 1425, 1505
Talent, Natural, 11
Talk—Talking, 326, 576
Talking machine—Talking machines, 755
Tallow rendered — Tallow renderers, 1170
Talmudic scholar — Talmudic scholars, 483
Tapestry—Tapestries, 557
Tardiness, 217, 608, 668, 1049, 1187, 1429-1431
Target—Targets, 659, 1420
Taste, 376
Tavern—Taverns, 1414
Tavernkeeper — Tavernkeepers, 1414
Tax assessor—Tax assessors, 1434
Tax collector—Tax collectors, 719, 722
Taxes, 1037, 1432-1434
Tax form—Tax forms, 718
Taxicab—Taxicabs, 292, 495, 1134, 1200, 1483, 1544, 1553, 1567
Taxi driver — Taxi drivers, 1185, 1041, 1488
Tax, Income, 716-724
Tax levy—Tax levies, 1434
Taxpayer — Taxpayers, 720, 1039
Taylor, Henry N., 1046
Tea—Teas, 130, 1209
Teacher, Music, 1352
Teacher—Pupil, 36, 37, 124, 207, 579, 779, 923, 1155, 1368, 1437-1464, 1471
Teacher — Teachers — Teaching, 100, 136, 150, 184, 476, 579, 665, 1217, 1435, 1436
Teamwork, 1167
Tear—Tears, 191, 896
Teasing, 1574
Technique—Techniques, 1465-1469

Teen-age—Teen-ager, 39, 515, 1132, 1199, 1240, 1242, 1490
Teetotaller—Teetotallers, 374, 1414
Telegram — Telegrams, 299, 474, 486
Telephone book — Telephone books, 723, 725
Telephone Company, 1300
Telephone directory — Telephone directories, 742
Telephone number—Telephone numbers, 3, 725, 1184, 1417
Telephone operator — Telephone operators, 55, 398, 705, 1417
Telephone — Telephones, 243, 448, 804, 834, 1028, 1057, 1439, 1488
Telescope — Telescopes, 142, 1314
Television, 149, 281, 650, 733, 889, 1084, 1470, 1471, 1503, 1531, 1556
Television interview — Television interviews, 669
Temper—Tempers, 690
Temperament, 690
Temperamental, 104
Temperance, 22, 374, 675, 1414
Temperature, Body, 390
Temptation, 1472-1474
Ten Commandments, The, 39, 135, 762, 1053, 1177, 1494
Tenement house — Tenement houses, 953
Tennessee, State of, 1436
Terhune, Albert Payson, 1349
Test—Testing, 1044, 1134
Testamentary will—Testamentary wills, 9
Testimonial—Testimonials, 483
Texan—Texans, 30, 177, 290
Texas, State of, 90, 770, 1188, 1371, 1400
Thanksgiving Day, 1390
Theatre—Theatres, 727, 1028, 1073, 1562
Theatre tickets, 727, 1324
Theft—Thefts, 62, 135, 258, 313, 622, 1211
Therapy, 325, 333, 341, 361
Thermometer — Thermometers, 390, 673
Thievery, 258, 588, 595, 622, 781, 1211
Thinking, 111, 789, 1345, 1477
Third degree, 1025
Thomas, John Charles, 901
Thoroughbred Racing Association, 713
Thorvaldsen, Albert Bertal, 996
Thought—Thoughts, 159, 766, 1054, 1475-1477
Thread, 908
Threat—Threats, 29, 746
Thrift, 291
Thumb—Thumbs, 1390
Ticket agent—Ticket agents, 494
Ticket, One-way, 1353
Ticket, Round-trip, 1353
Tickets, Theatre, 727
Tidiness, 59
Tiepin—Tiepins, 1332
Time, 109, 1214
Timepiece—Timepieces, 1214
Time-savings, 1478, 1479
Tip, Racing, 614, 616
Tip (Stock market), 1401
Tip — Tips — Tippings, 1041, 1480-1487
Tire, Flat, 1564
Tit for tat, 119, 294, 542, 952, 1033, 1488-1507
Title, Book, 102
Toadstool—Toadstools, 1109
Toast—Toasts, 205
Toastmaster — Toastmasters, 751, 1150
Tobacco, 1366
Tobacco, Chewing, 1358
Toe—Toes, 274

Tolerance, 675
Tolstoy, Count Leo, 164
Tombstone—Tombstones, 674, 1222
Tongue-lashing, 678
Tongue sandwich — Tongue sandwiches, 388
Tonsilitis, 1377
Tool—Tools, 419
Tooth for a tooth, 559
Tooth—Teeth, 305
Topcoat—Topcoats, 1211
Top-notcher, 997
Toscanini, Arturo, 1107
Touring, 766
Tourist, American, 497
Tourist—Tourists, 10, 363, 502, 531, 532, 581, 619, 795, 1188, 1193, 1499, 1529, 1532, 1533, 1535, 1538, 1546, 1548, 1556
Towel—Towels, 57, 618, 622
Toy—Toys, 914, 1124
Track, Railroad, 508
Track-switching, 508
Tractor, Farm, 1258
Trademark—Trademarks, 1576
Trade unionism, 871
Trading post—Trading posts, 790
Trafalgar Square, London, 1011
Traffic, 1029
Traffic, Automobile, 1335, 1508-1527
Traffic light — Traffic lights, 1523
Traffic officer—Traffic officers, 1200
Traffic signal—Traffic signals, 283, 1526
Tragedy, 993
Train, Railroad, 399, 1515
Traitor—Traitors, 1464
Tramp—Tramps, 990
Transcript—Transcripts, 1159
Translation—Translations, 34, 826, 1528
Transportation, 1173
Trap—Traps, 544
Trapeze, 408
Trash can—Trash cans, 582
Travel, 21, 142, 184, 531, 1207, 1322, 1419, 1499, 1529-1548, 1556, 1558
Traveler—Travelers, 1342
Traveling salesman—Traveling salesmen, 486, 1014, 1307
Travel, Space, 1529
Treasury, Secretary of the, 260
Treat—Treats, 383
Tree—Trees, 170, 1340
Tremor—Tremors, 362
Trespass—Trespassing, 832
Trial—Trials, 465
Trickery, 900
Trifle—Trifles, 195
Triple-decker sandwich, 388
Triplets, 1229
Trophy—Trophies, 565, 1229
Trouble—Troubles, 631, 870, 1029
Troubles, Business, 672
Trousers, 1, 345, 347, 839
Truancy, 1339, 1340
Trumpet—Trumpets, 102
Trust, 257, 1003
Trustworthiness, 1344
Truth, 313, 521, 627, 700, 810, 1549, 1550
Truthfulness, 1290
Try-on, 270
Tuberculosis stamps, 889
Tunney, Gene, 1180
Turnabout, 1551, 1552
Tuscola, Illinois, 947
Twain, Mark, 28, 549, 72[illegible], 824, 1010, 1357
Tycoon—Tycoons, 988
Typewriter ribbon—Typewriter ribbons, 172
Typing, 459
Typist—Typists, 428, 459, 1398
Typographical error — Typographical errors, 48, 909

U

Ugliness, 391, 1172
Umbrella—Umbrellas, 599
Umpire—Umpires, 280
Uncertainty, 139, 328, 1441
Uncle—Uncles, 341, 1192
Undependability, 104
Understanding, 843, 902, 1553, 1554
Undertaker—Undertakers, 740
Undress, 349, 1027
Unemployment, 1248
Unexpected, The, 942
Unhappiness, 1278
Uniform, Military, 60
Uniform—Uniforms, 1519
Union, Labor, 662, 871, 1192
Union shop, 871
United Nations, 266, 1487
United States Patent Office, 752
United States, Presidency of the, 961
Universe, 902, 1315
University—Universities, 1374
Unpredictability, 104
Untruth, 313
Upper berth—Upper berths, 485
Uranium, 1398
Urey, Harold C., 4
U.S.A., 406
Used car—Used cars, 1253, 1303, 1566
Usher, Wedding, 954
U.S. Steel Corporation, 1469

V

Vacation, 443, 592, 806, 984, 1161, 1182, 1481, 1535, 1555-1560, 1569
Vacuum cleaner — Vacuum cleaners, 971, 1304, 1331
Vagabond—Vagabonds, 1420
Valet—Valets, 420
Value—Values, 445, 1561, 1562
Van Dellen, Dr. Theodore R., 381
Vanderbilt, Alfred, 713
Vanderbilt University, 713
Vanishing cream, 187
Varnish, 765
Vase—Vases, 587
Veil—Veils, 1100
Venice, Italy, 531, 1536
Ventriloquist — Ventriloquists, 1025
Venus, 1360
Veracity, 313, 521, 700, 801, 807
Verbosity, 761, 1563-1565
Verdi, Giuseppe, 1107
Vermont, State of, 1050, 1075, 1409
Vestments, 593
Veteran—Veterans, 48
Veteran, War, 550
Veterinarian — Veterinarians, 309, 344, 501, 930
Victoria, Queen, 537, 689, 998
Victory—Victories, 313, 407
Victrola—Victrolas, 794
Vienna, Austria, 1134
Viewpoint — Viewpoints, 280, 1003-1023
Vinegar works, 1170
Violin—Violins, 32, 496, 536, 1404
Violinist—Violinists, 496, 584
Violin lesson—Violin lessons, 933
Violin string—Violin strings, 536
V.I.P., 581, 763, 1533
Virginia, State of, 1046
Virtue—Virtues, 1215, 1451
Vision, 446, 634, 1126
Vocabulary, 1566, 1567
Voice, 1425, 1427
Volcano—Volcanoes, 1538
Voltaire, 1290
Volunteer—Volunteers, 68
Vote-buying, 1035
Vote—Votes—Voting, 137, 163, 1035, 1041, 1046

W

Wacs, 60
Wage increase — Wage increases, 1300, 1568, 1570
Wages. See also Salary—Salaries, 415, 462, 653, 694, 845, 1228, 1568-1570
Wagon—Wagons, 1489
Waiter — Waiters, 469, 590, 678, 726, 934, 1208, 1480, 1485, 1532, 1544
Waiting - room — Waiting - rooms, 329, 741
Waitress — Waitresses, 806, 1184, 1212
Wake—Wakes, 309
Walk—Walking, 354
Walkie-Talkie, 143
Wallet—Wallets, 922, 1484
Wall, Retaining, 397
War—Wars, 71, 266, 836, 1454
Warden, Prison, 705, 1218
Warning—Warnings, 29, 1191, 1212
Warranty, Automobile, 1522
Wart—Warts, 1031
War veteran—War veterans, 550
Washcloth—Washcloths, 57
Washington, D. C., 581, 582, 724, 1329, 1361
Washington, George, 64, 440, 1046, 1186, 1500
Washington, University of, 891
Waste, 109, 735, 869
Wastebasket — Wastebaskets, 1413, 1479
Watchman, Night, 686
Watch—Watches, 440, 772, 989, 1207, 1214
Watch, Wrist, 1407
Water, 162, 1475, 1537
Water closet—Water closets, 31
Water faucet—Water faucets, 1127
Waterloo Station, London, 1011
Watermelon — Watermelons, 1220
Water wagon—Water wagons, 22
W.C., 31
Wealth, 94, 106, 538, 543, 1205, 1292
Weapon—Weapons, 1504
Weariness, 407
Wearing apparel, 20, 55, 218, 297, 459, 593, 672, 692, 701, 917, 1306, 1571-1581
Weather, 1058, 1534, 1557
Weather forecast — Weather forecasts, 790, 792
Weather forecaster — Weather forecasters, 1441
Weaver, Raymond, 150
Webster, Daniel, 1361
Wedding anniversary, Golden, 878
Wedding anniversary — Wedding anniversaries, 571, 697, 727, 882
Wedding ceremony—Wedding ceremonies, 191, 954, 1094
Wedding day, 855
Wedding gift—Wedding gifts, 57
Wedding gown — Wedding gowns, 603
Wedding night, 601
Wedding reception, 862
Wedding ring—Wedding rings, 603, 852
Wedding—Weddings, 159, 764, 1283
Weight, 963, 967, 1507
Welcome, 930
Welles, Orson, 299
Whereabouts, 988
Whiskey, 19, 77, 364, 375, 399
Whisper—Whispering, 1064
Whistle—Whistles, 430, 960
Whistler, James McNeill, 227, 1010, 1506
Whistling, 1423
White House, The, 153, 582, 948, 1219, 1402, 1409
Whittling, 197

Wholesale, 228
Widow—Widows, 93, 279, 492, 675, 740, 756, 864, 1012, 1181, 1222, 1503
Widow—Widowers, 411, 693, 883, 1012
Widowhood, 848
Widow's mite, 554
Wife—Wives, 29, 379, 756, 1410, 1427, 1573
Wild oats, 504
Will Contest, 667
Williams, Esther, 8
William the Conqueror, 31
Will, Testamentary, 9, 667
Wilson, Woodrow, 1160, 1467
Winchester College, 497
Wind, 1170
Window, Picture, 1434
Window-washing, 1328
Window—Windows, 796
Wine, 379, 380, 806, 1046
Winter, 193, 1530, 1534
Wisconsin, State of, 192, 904
Wisdom, 168, 759, 1573
Wise, Stephen S., 1494
Wishful thinking, 1456
Withholding tax, 1299
Witness—Witnesses, 14, 297, 313, 810, 1419
Woman—Women, 18, 20, 43, 56, 853, 879, 1344, 1359, 1369, 1469, 1485, 1509, 1510, 1526, 1582-1585
Woman's Club, 1142, 1151
Wonder drugs, 361
Woodcutter—Woodcutters, 1058
Woolcott, Alexander, 1336
Woolworth's, 1332
Word—Words, 765, 1054
Work, 490
Workmen's Compensation, 461
World Series, 680, 1387
World, The, 162, 785
World War I, 1017, 1225, 1504
World War II, 71, 250
Worry, 344, 442, 492, 798, 814, 836, 962
Worship, 895
Wren, Sir Christopher, 1351
Wright Aeronautical Plant, 1067
Wright, Orville, 754, 1150
Wright, Wilbur, 754, 1150
Wrist watch—Wrist watches, 1207, 1407
Writing, 402
Wyoming, State of, 1106

Y

Yacht race—Yacht races, 1389
Yacht—Yachts, 1262
Yale lock—Yale locks, 778
Yale University, 410, 481, 542
Yankee—Yankees, 1540
Yogi, 12
Youth, 20, 1586, 1587

Z

Zoo—Zoos, 1328

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